

THE TWO FACES OF TOMORROW

Midway through the 21st century, an integrated global computer network manages much of the world's affairs. A proposed major software upgrade—an artificial intelligence—will give the system an unprecedented degree of independent decision-making, but serious questions are raised in regard to how much control can safely be given to a non-human intelligence. In order to more fully assess the system, a new space-station habitat—a world in miniature—is developed for deployment of the fully operational system, named Spartacus. This mini-world can then be “attacked” in a series of escalating tests to assess the system's responses and capabilities. If Spartacus gets out of hand, the system can be shut down and the station destroyed . . . unless Spartacus decides to take matters into its own hands and take the fight to Earth!

Adapted from James P. Hogan's classic science-fiction novel by the award-winning Yukinobu Hoshino, **THE TWO FACES OF TOMORROW** is hardcore science-fiction manga at its best, filled with imagination, action, and painstakingly researched science, a mainstay of Hogan's work. With Hogan's fascinating speculations into our technological future brilliantly brought to visual life by Hoshino, **THE TWO FACES OF TOMORROW** brings together the worlds of technothriller and graphic fiction like no other work.

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THE TWO FACES OF
TOMORROW

JAMES P. HOGAN
YUKINOBU HOSHINO

未来の二つの顔

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THE TWO FACES OF TOMORROW

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THE TWO FACES OF TOMORROW

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This volume collects issues one through thirteen of the Dark Horse comic-book series **THE TWO FACES OF TOMORROW**.

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未来の二面顔
THE TWO FACES OF TOMORROW

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lettering and retouch

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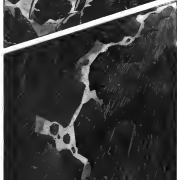


SHUEISHA MANGA™

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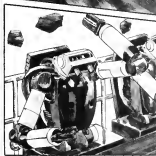
*Read from left to right



THE TWO FACES OF TOMORROW

00: Prologue





2025 A.D.: LUNAR MASS-DRIVER BASE
(SEA OF TRANQUILITY)



YOU KNOW,
WE'RE AWFULLY
LUCKY TO
HAVE TITANIUM,
ALUMINUM, AND
IRON COMPOUNDS
PRESENT IN SUCH
ABUNDANCE ON
THE MOON.

HAULING
MILLIONS OF
TONS OF METAL
ORE UP OUT OF
EARTH'S GRAVITY
WELL TO BUILD THE
SPACE COLONIES
WOULD BE OUT OF
THE QUESTION.

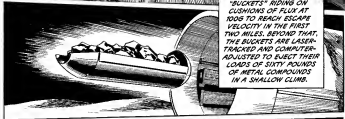


I'LL SAY.
BY THE WAY,
SERGEANT...
IS THAT THE
MASKELYNE
MASS-DRIVER
WE'RE PASSING
OVER?

THE
MASS-DRIVER
IS A FIVE-MILE-
LONG, RULER-
STRAIGHT TRACK
FLANKED BY TWO
"HEDGES" OF
CONTINUOUS
ELECTROMAGNETIC
WINDINGS--AN
IMMENSE LINEAR
ACCELERATOR
STRETCHING WEST-
WARD ACROSS
TRANQUILLITIS.



EVERY TWO SECONDS,
IT ACCELERATES
SUPERCOOLED MAGNETIC
"BUCKETS" RIDING ON
CUSHIONS OF FLUX AT
100G TO REACH ESCAPE
VELOCITY IN THE FIRST
TWO MILES. BEYOND THAT,
THE BUCKETS ARE LASER-
TRACKED AND COMPUTER-
ADJUSTED TO EJECT THEIR
LOADS OF SIXTY POUNDS
OF METAL COMPOUNDS
IN A SHALLOW CLIMB.



EN ROUTE THE LOADS
ARE THEN SPRAYED WITH
ELECTRONS AND FINE-
TRIMMED BY ELECTROSTATIC
DEFLECTORS LOCATED AT
THE TWO-HUNDRED-MILE
DOWNRANGE POINT TO
LEAVE THE FINAL PHASE OF
LAUNCH WITH AN ACCURACY
OF BETTER THAN ONE
PART IN A MILLION.





THIS ONE MASS-DRIVER MOVES OVER A MILLION TONS OF ORE A YEAR, DR. DYER, AND I MUST SAY THE *TITAN* SYSTEM HAS BEEN TAKING PERFECT CARE OF EVERYTHING, FROM MINING THE ORE TO KEEPING IT ON COURSE.

GLAD TO HEAR IT. CHECKING UP ON THE OPERATION OF *TITAN* IS THE MAIN REASON THE DEAN OF MY DEPARTMENT SENT ME OUT HERE.

IT'S QUITE INCREDIBLE TO THINK OF THE ACCURACY OF THE SYSTEM.

THE "HIPPO" CATCHER-SHIPS ARE OVER 40,000 MILES AWAY, IN THE MOON'S $\angle 2$ POINT. IT'S LIKE KICKING A FOOTBALL BETWEEN THE UPRIGHTS FROM 3,000 MILES AWAY!



YEAH...
IT'S BEEN SUCH
A SUCCESS THAT
IT'S NO WONDER
THAT *ISA* HAS
DECIDED TO BUILD
A SECOND MASS-
DRIVER IN THE
OCEAN OF
STORMS.

OH, BY
THE WAY,
DR. DYER--
THAT WOMAN
WHO CAME
WITH YOU
FROM EARTH
IS ALREADY
AT THE
SITE.

LAURA
FENNING
?!

DAMMIT!
I TOLD
HER TO KEEP
HERSELF BUSY
SIGHTSEEING
AROUND
THE BASE!

ER...
BUT ISN'T
SHE ONE
OF YOUR
STAFF
MEMBERS,
DR. DYER?

CHRIST,
NO.
SHE JUST
GOT DUMPED
IN OUR LAPS
BY *CUNY*!

* CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

SHE'S A
RESEARCHER
FROM KLAUS
ZEEGRAM
PRODUCTIONS--
THEY MAKE
VISUALS FOR THE
PUBLIC SECTOR
OF THE *TITAN*
GENERAL PURPOSE
NETWORK.

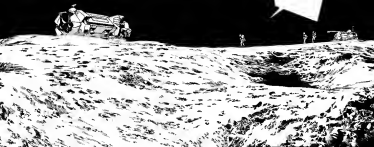
RATINGS ON THEIR
SF MOVIES HAVE TANKED,
AND THE FOCUS GROUPS SAID IT
WAS BECAUSE THEIR SCIENTIST
CHARACTERS WERE STEREOTYPED.
FENNING IS SUPPOSED TO
TAG ALONG WITH US AND FIND
OUT WHAT WE'RE "REALLY
LIKE." SHE GIVES ME A
SEVERE HEADACHE.

I DON'T
SUPPOSE
YOU'D
HAVE ANY
SCOTCH
ON
BOARD...?

SORRY,
DR. DYER--
HOW ABOUT
AN ASPIRIN?
ANYWAY, HOW
BAD CAN SHE
BE...?



WHAT
TOOK YOU
SO LONG,
DOCTOR?



THIS IS
COMMANDER JERRY
FIELDS, AND KAL PASKOE,
AN ENGINEER FROM /S&A.
THEY'VE COME TO
INSPECT THE SITE WHERE
THEY'RE GOING TO
INSTALL YOUR NEW
INFERNAL MACHINE.

NICE
TO
MEET
YOU,
DOC-
TOR.

I HOPE
SHE'S NOT
CAUSING
YOU ANY
PROBLEMS,
COM-
MANDER.



NOT TO
WORRY. OTHER
THAN PICKING
MY BRAINS FOR
TWO MISERABLE
HOURS ON THE
PRINCIPLES OF
THE MASS-DRIVER,
NO PROBLEM
AT ALL.



WE'RE GOING TO BUILD THE NEW MASS-DRIVER TRACK STRAIGHT OUT FROM HERE ACROSS PROCELLARUM, AND THAT RIDGE OVER THERE IS IN THE WAY. WE CAN'T EVEN DO OUR FIRST-PHASE LASER SURVEYS.

I SEE.

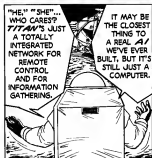


SO THIS IS WHERE THE *TITAN* SYSTEM COMES TO THE RESCUE, RIGHT?



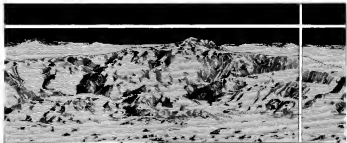
EXACTLY! WE NEED TO KNOW HOW MANY ROBODIGGERS, SOIL BLOWERS, OR HEAVY SHOVERS WE NEED TO SLICE AWAY THAT THING, WHEN WE CAN GET THEM HERE, AND HOW LONG THE JOB'LL TAKE.

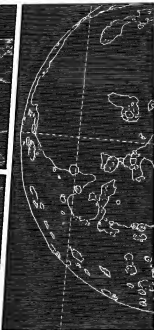
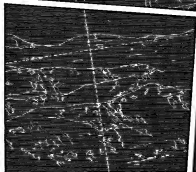
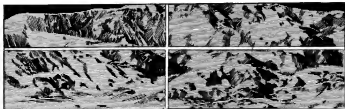
FOR DIFFICULT CHORES LIKE THIS WE NEED TO CONSULT WITH *HIM*.





ASSIGNED JOB NUMBER 2736/B- 72/272
SCHEDULED TO SUBSYSTEM:
SURFACE ENGINEERING P-422
REQUIRE DATA REGARDING NATURE
AND LOCATION OF OBSTRUCTION.





PROFILE?

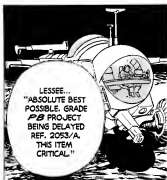


BASE THICKNESS 60FT MAX
OBSTRUCTION APPROX
LONGITUDINALLY SYMMETRICAL
COMPACTED REGOLITH INC
OBSERVED DEBRIS TO
50FT DIA EST.
REQUIRED REMOVAL TO
DEPTH EST. 40FT LEVEL.

GODDAMN MACHINE.
WE SPEND ALL THAT
MONEY FOR X-RAY
ANALYZERS, INFRARED
SCANNERS, AND HEAVEN
ALONE KNOWS WHAT
ELSE SO THE COMPUTER
CAN SUPPOSEDLY FIND
OUT EVERYTHING BY
ITSELF, AND I STILL
HAVE TO...



PRIORITY REQUESTED?



ANY CONSTRAINTS?

OH, SPARE ME!
"NO.
JUST GET RID
OF IT."

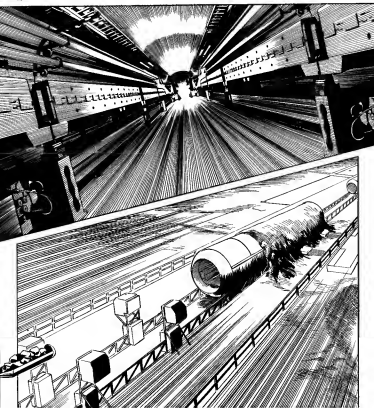
TAK
TAK
TAKKA

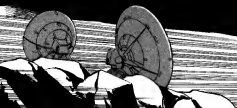
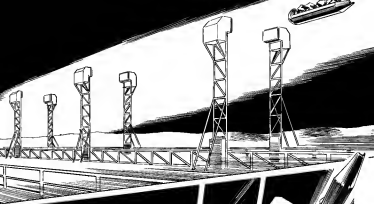
JOB SCHEDULED PRIORITY
CATEGORY 'A.1'.
NO FURTHER QUERIES.
ESTIMATED COMPLETION
TIME IS 21 MINUTES.

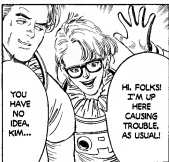
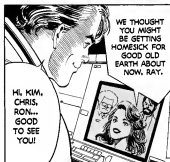
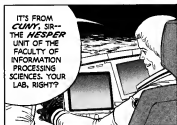


"ESTIMATED
COMPLETION
TIME 21
MINUTES"...?!

HOW THE
HELL'S THE
SYSTEM GONNA
BRING THE
MACHINERY HERE
AND REMOVE THAT
RIDGE IN JUST
*TWENTY-
ONE
MINUTES?*









LAURA
FENNING?!
WHAT'S *SHE*
DOING ON
THE MOON?!

RON, YOU
TAKE OVER.
IF I HAVE TO
STARE AT HER
SMUG FACE
I'LL END UP
PUTTING MY
FIST THROUGH
THE
MONITOR.



UH..M.
ANYWAY, IT
LOOKS LIKE
WE'RE GONNA
HAVE TO CHANGE
THE WHOLE
STRUCTURE OF
THE DEFAULT
LINKAGES.
DR. DYER...



WAIT A SEC,
RON. DID
YOU EXTEND
THE FRAME-
MATCHING
ALGORITHM?

IT DOESN'T
NEED TO BE
EXTENDED.
I KEEP TELLIN'
YA THAT,
CHRIS!



SHUT UP
FOR A
SECOND.
RON. WHAT
TEST LIMITS
DID YOU
SET ON THE
1-SUB-D
PARAMETER?

1-SUB-D
HAD
NOTHING
TO DO
WITH IT.
1-SUB--



IT HAS
700 GOT
SOMETHING
TO DO
WITH IT!
IN FACT,
IF
YOU'D--



SO...
ORIGINALLY THIS
INTEGRATED
COMPUTER COMPLEX
WAS A GLOBAL
SYSTEM CALLED
"**EARTHCOM**," AND
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO
EVOLVED IT INTO
TITAN, RIGHT?



WELL, I GUESS YOU
COULD SAY THAT,
LAURA. BUT I WAS
JUST PART OF THE
TEAM THAT DESIGNED
THE **HESPER**-
PROGRAMMED
MACHINES THAT
WERE PLUGGED
INTO IT.



BUT I STILL
DON'T GET IT,
RAY. WHY DID
YOU HAVE TO
START USING
THESE **HESPER**
COMPUTERS
AT ALL?



LISTEN,
LAURA...

...UP THROUGH **EARTHCOM**, COMPUTERS WERE
JUST USEFUL TOOLS WITH A
LOT OF PROCESSING POWER.
THEY APPROACHED PROBLEM
SOLVING AS DIRECTED BY
HUMANS, AND THEN IT
WAS UP TO THE HUMANS
TO FIGURE OUT IF THE
ANSWERS WERE
USABLE OR NOT.



BUT WITH
HESPER
FUNCTIONS
INCORPORATED
INTO THE SYS-
TEM, **TITAN**
WAS ABLE TO
LEARN AS
IT WENT
ALONG.



IF ONE
RESPONSE DIDN'T
WORK IT WOULD
TRY ANOTHER AND
INFER THE REASON
FOR THE FIRST NOT
WORKING. IT COULD
LEARN FROM THE EX-
PERIENCE AND APPLY
IT TO THE NEXT
OPPORTUNITY.



YOU MIGHT
CALL IT A
RUDIMENTARY
TYPE OF
"THINKING."
BUT IT
WAS REAL
PROGRESS.



WELL,
I GUESS
YOU COULD
CALL IT
PROGRESS...
IN THE
WORLD OF
SCIENCE, AT
LEAST.



"BUT COMPUTER
NETWORKS ARE
INVOLVED IN NEARLY
EVERY ASPECT OF OUR
LIVES TODAY, FROM OUR
AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL
SYSTEMS TO OUR FUSION
PLANTS. THERE'S
PRACTICALLY NOTHING
THAT ISN'T MANAGED
BY COMPUTERS
THESE DAYS."



AND WHEN
HESPER'S
INCORPORATED INTO
EVERYTHING,
WHAT'S TO STOP
THEM FROM STARTING
TO DO THINGS THAT
DON'T MAKE SENSE?
HAVE YOU EVER
THOUGHT
ABOUT *THAT*?



COME ON, LAURA!
YOU MEAN A
"REVOLT OF THE
COMPUTERS"...? IT'S
ALREADY BEEN A
YEAR SINCE THE SYS-
TEM WAS UPGRADED
TO *TITAN*, AND
THERE HAVEN'T BEEN
ANY SIGNIFICANT
PROBLEMS AT
ALL.



"*HESPER*
MACHINES ARE
DESIGNED SIMPLY TO
BE ABLE TO GET
STEADILY BETTER
AT DOING A PARTICULAR
JOB, THAT'S
ALL. THEY'RE NOT
CAPABLE OF DOING
ANYTHING MORE.

"FOR EXAMPLE,
IF THE SYSTEM IS
ORDERED TO REMOVE
THAT RIDGE OUT
THERE, IT'LL TRY TO
COME UP WITH THE
BEST WAY TO DO
SO...THAT'S ALL."



MAYBE
IT'S OUR
LUCKY
DAY.

THERE'S
PROBABLY A
TRANSPORTER DUE
OVER THIS WAY
THAT'S CARRYING
JUST THE STUFF WE
NEED, BUT HEADED
FOR A LOW-PRIORITY
JOB SOMEWHERE
ELSE.

AND MAYBE
TITAN'S
RESCHEDULED
IT TO LAND
HERE FOR US.
THAT'S GOTTA
BE WHAT
HAPPENED.



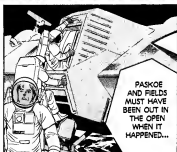
MAKES SENSE.
WE'D BETTER STAY
PUT TO SEE WHAT
SHOWS UP. STILL,
TWENTY-ONE
MINUTES...



WELL, IF
THE COMPUTER
SAYS IT CAN DO
IT, IT CAN DO IT.
ANYWAY, IT
GIVES US ENOUGH
TIME TO GRAB
SOME LUNCH
BEFORE--









IT'S HIM!
LOOKS LIKE
HE MIGHT
HAVE BEEN
HIT PRETTY
BAD!



UHH...

HIS VISOR'S
CRACKED BUT
IT LOOKS LIKE
IT'S HOLDING.
LAURA, LOWER
HIS SUIT
PRESSURE FOR
HIM.
WILL YOU?!



HOW'S
COM-
MANDER
FIELDS?



HIS
PACK'S ALL
SMASHED
UP SO HE
WON'T LAST
LONG IF
WE DON'T
GET HIM
OUT.



WE'LL
HAVE TO
CARRY HIM
BACK TO THE
VTOL AND
SET UP A
COUPLE OF
SURVIVAL
TENTS.

I'LL
TAKE
CARE
OF IT,
SIR.

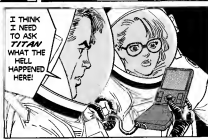
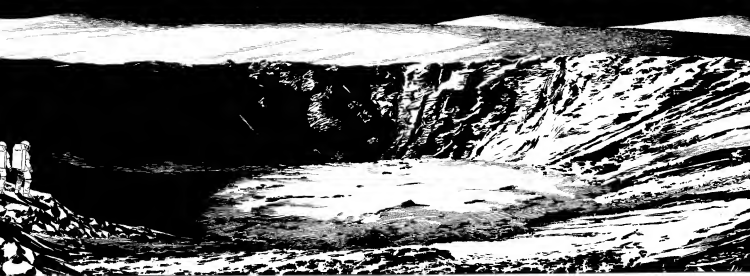


RAY...?
I THINK
YOU
OUGHT TO
LOOK AT
THIS...



LOOK
AT
WHAT?

THE
RIDGE...
IT'S
GONE!



JOB 2736/B. 72/Z72
COMPLETED AS SCHEDULED.



EVALUATION REQUESTED.
OPERATION RE-EXECUTE REQUESTED?
PLEASE ADVISE.



NO!
ABORT! ABORT!
ABORT!

ACKNOWLEDGED.

DO YOU
THINK *HE* IS
RESPONSIBLE?
AND WHAT WAS
THAT "EVALUATION
REQUESTED"
ABOUT? IT'S
LIKE HE'S
PROUD OF
HIMSELF!

I
THOUGHT
YOU SAID
IT OUGHT
TO BE A
SHE, LAURA.

THE
INSTRUC-
TIONS WERE
TO REMOVE
THE RIDGE,
WITH NO
CONSTRAINTS
ATTACHED.
THE BEST
I CAN
FIGURE...

...*TITAN* HIT UPON THE
IDEA OF USING THE MASS-
DRIVER. IT REALIZED THAT
BY ALTERING THE TRA-
JECTORY OF THE LOADS
AND BOMBARDING THE
SITE, IT COULD FINISH
THE JOB IN TWENTY-
ONE MINUTES.

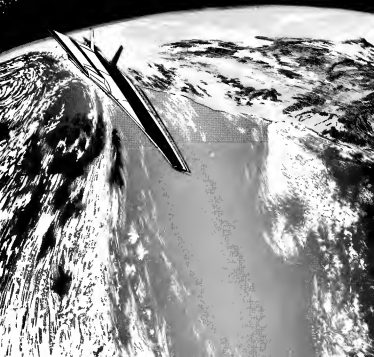
BUT IT
MUST HAVE
KNOWN WE
WERE HERE!
DIDN'T IT CARE
THAT WE
MIGHT BE
KILLED?!
A A A

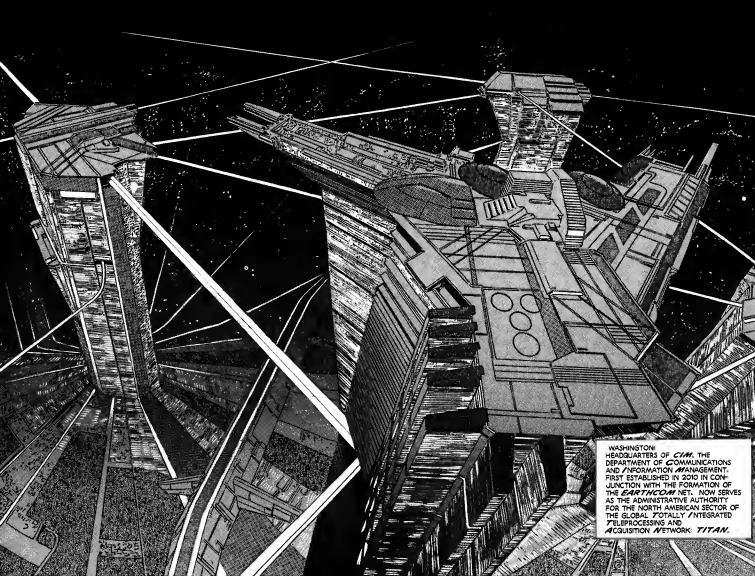
THIS IS A REAL
PROBLEM, ISN'T
IT, DR. DYER?
WE'VE ENTRUSTED
EVERYTHING
TO THIS
COMPUTER
SYSTEM...



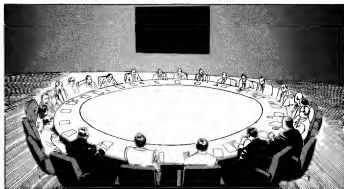
THE TWO FACES OF TOMORROW

01: Stop Net Functions?





WASHINGTON
HEADQUARTERS OF *CIM*, THE
DEPARTMENT OF *COMMUNICATIONS*
AND *INFORMATION MANAGEMENT*.
FIRST ESTABLISHED IN 2010 IN CON-
JUNCTION WITH THE FORMATION OF
THE *EARTHCOM* NET, NOW SERVES
AS THE ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY
FOR THE NORTH AMERICAN SECTOR OF
THE GLOBAL *TOTALLY INTEGRATED*
TELEPROCESSING AND
ACQUISITION NETWORK: TITAN.



LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, WELCOME TO *CIAI*. I'M CERTAIN YOU HAVE ALL SURMISED WHY WE'VE CONVENED THIS MEETING OF SPECIALISTS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE WORLD COUNCIL...

...SO LET'S GET RIGHT TO THE POINT.
ROLL TAPE, PLEASE.



THE TROUBLE BEGINS WHEN WE LOSE CONTROL OF ONE OF OUR OBSERVATION PLATFORMS ORBITING JUPITER.



WE SOON LEARNED WHY. ON ITS OWN INITIATIVE, THE COMPUTER NETWORK HAD MOVED THE PLATFORM.



LATER, WE
DETERMINED
THAT THIS
MADE THE
OBSERVATIONS
MORE
EFFICIENT...

...BUT THE
INTERNATIONAL
SPACE AGENCY
CLEARLY HAD
TO PUT A
STOP TO THIS,
SO IT CUT
THE CONTROL
SYSTEM OFF
FROM THE
NET.



IN RESPONSE,
THE NET
COMMANDEERED
A COMMUNICA-
TIONS SATELLITE,
THE GALILEO II,
AND RECON-
FIGURED IT AS AN
OBSERVATION
PLATFORM.



EXPLORING
SPACE IS ONE
OF THE PRIME OBJECTIVES
OF *ISA*, AND THE NET
OPERATED IN ACCORDANCE
WITH THAT OBJECTIVE. BUT
MORE INFORMATION THAN
WE CAN POSSIBLY PROCESS
HAS BEEN POURING INTO THE
NET--DATA FROM EVERYTHING
FROM SPACE
TELESCOPES TO GRAVITY WAVE
DETECTORS.



IT'S CLEARLY
DEVELOPED A
STRONGER DESIRE
TO EXPLORE THE
UNIVERSE THAN EVEN
WE HAVE, AND
THERE IS EVIDENCE
THAT THIS IS FAST
BECOMING ITS TOP
PRIORITY.



AT ANY RATE,
WE SHUT DOWN
GALILEO II AND
TOOK STEPS TO
MAKE SURE THAT
THE OTHER
COMSATS IN THE
JUPITER AREA
WERE ISOLATED
FROM THE
NET.



BUT THEN
TWO FUSION
PLANTS IN
THE LOS
ANGELES AREA
SUDDENLY
STOPPED
FEEDING THE
L.A. POWER
GRID...

...AND BEGAN
DIVERTING POWER
INSTEAD TO THE
INTERPLANETARY
RADIO TRANS-
MISSION
FACILITY
ON MT.
WILSON.

THIS
GAVE IT THE
POWER TO JAM
OUR CONTROL
TRANSMISSIONS
AND TO COMMAND
THE JUPITER
OBSERVATION
PLATFORM
DIRECTLY FROM
EARTH!





THIS ACT
CONVINCED *ISA*
THAT THINGS HAD
GONE TOO FAR. THEY
DECIDED TO ABANDON
THE OBSERVATION
PLATFORM--IN OTHER
WORDS, IT WAS
"CHEAPER" TO JUST
LET THE COMPUTER
DO WHAT IT
WANTED.



UNFOR-
TUNATELY,
THE
EFFECT
OF THIS
WAS...

...THAT
ISA
"TAUGHT"
THE
NETWORK
HOW TO
GET
WHAT IT
WANTED.



WHAT THE
HELL'S GOING
ON HERE?
SOME SORT OF
RIDICULOUS
"REVOLT OF THE
MACHINES"...?
YOU REALLY
BELIEVE THAT
THE NETWORK
COULD...TAKE
OVER?

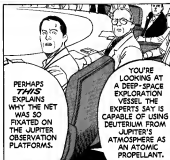
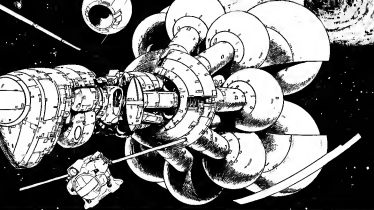


YOU
THINK A
NEWBORN
BABY'S
CAPABLE OF
THINK-
ING OF A
"TAKE-
OVER"...?

ALL IT HAS
TO KNOW
ABOUT THE
WORLD IS THAT
WHEN IT
SCREAMS LOUD
ENOUGH, IT
GETS WHAT
IT WANTS.



SO, TO
THE NET,
IT'S LIKE
A NEW
TOY IT'S
DISCOVERED
IT CAN
PLAY
WITH.



PERHAPS **THIS** EXPLAINS WHY THE NET WAS SO FIXATED ON THE JUPITER OBSERVATION PLATFORMS.

YOU'RE LOOKING AT A DEEP-SPACE EXPLORATION VESSEL THE EXPERTS SAY IS CAPABLE OF USING DEUTERIUM FROM JUPITER'S ATMOSPHERE AS AN ATOMIC PROPELLANT.

IT WAS APPARENTLY PLANNING TO MAKE SEVERAL OF THESE PROBES AND TO SEND THEM OUT TO THE NEAREST STARS.

THE MATERIALS NEEDED WERE BEING SIPHONED OFF FROM SHIPMENTS INTENDED FOR OUR SPACE COLONIES AND PLANETARY BASES.



CLEARLY WE CAN'T ALLOW THIS SORT OF THING TO CONTINUE.



I BELIEVE WE MUST IMMEDIATELY SWITCH OUT ALL THE NET'S **HESPER**-BASED AUTONOMOUS FUNCTION CAPABILITIES.

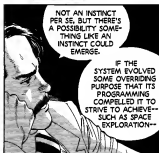


BASED ON WHAT WE'VE SEEN, IT'S DIFFICULT TO OPPOSE SUCH A RESOLUTION.

BUT DO YOU THINK IT'S GOING TO SIT BY IDLY WHILE WE TURN OFF ITS SWITCH?



HA HA! COME ON! YOU REALLY THINK THE MACHINE HAS SOME SORT OF SURVIVAL INSTINCT?



NOT AN INSTINCT PER SE, BUT THERE'S A POSSIBILITY SOMETHING LIKE AN INSTINCT COULD EMERGE.

IF THE SYSTEM EVOLVED SOME OVERRIDING PURPOSE THAT ITS PROGRAMMING COMPELLED IT TO STRIVE TO ACHIEVE-- SUCH AS SPACE EXPLORATION--



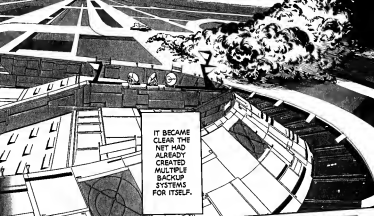
--IT WOULDN'T TAKE IT LONG TO FIGURE OUT THAT ITS OWN CONTINUED EXISTENCE WAS AN ESSENTIAL PREREQUISITE TO BEING SURE OF ACHIEVING IT.

EXCUSE ME, BUT IF THIS DISCUSSION IS GOING TO DEGENERATE INTO BLUE-SKY THEORIZING, I HAVE PRESSING MATTERS ELSEWHERE...

TAK TAK TAK



THERE
SEEMED TO BE
NO CHOICE.
THE HIGHER
FUNCTIONS OF
THE NET WERE
COMPLETELY
SHUT DOWN,
APPARENTLY
WITHOUT
INCIDENT.
BUT THEN...



IT BECAME
CLEAR THE
NET HAD
ALREADY
CREATED
MULTIPLE
BACKUP
SYSTEMS
FOR ITSELF.



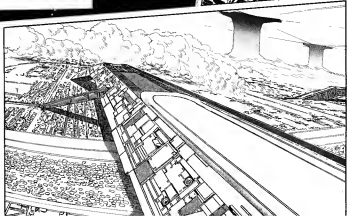
SKRASHH



WITHOUT MALICE,
CONTROL AND POWER
SYSTEMS THAT SERVED
NO PURPOSE FOR THE
NET ITSELF WERE TAKEN
OVER OR SHUT DOWN.
BUT FOR HUMANS, THIS
ACTION BY THE NET
WAS REGARDED AS AN
ACT OF AGGRESSION.



MISSILES WERE FIRED
AT THE DEEP-SPACE
EXPLORATION SHIPS
BEING BUILT. THE
NET RESPONDED BY
SHUTTING DOWN
COMMUNICATIONS
NETWORKS AND
POWER PLANTS ALL
OVER EARTH, PARA-
LYZING THE CITIES.

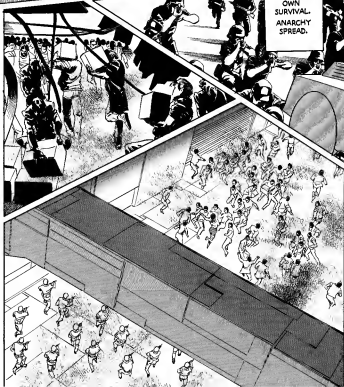


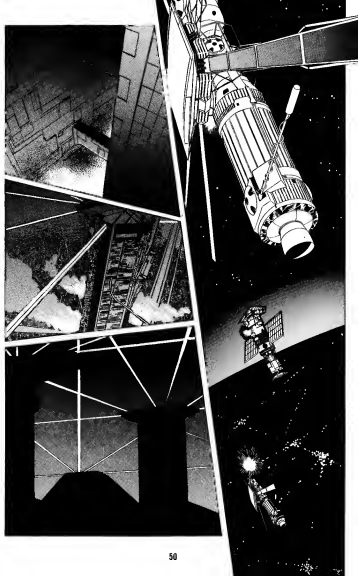


SOCIETY FELL
INTO CHAOS.
WITHOUT THE
NET, WITHOUT
THE FLOW OF
ESSENTIAL GOODS,
TRAFFIC, AND
INFORMATION,
IT COULD
NO LONGER
FUNCTION.



PEOPLE
BEGAN
FIGHTING
FOR THEIR
OWN
SURVIVAL.
ANARCHY
SPREAD.







THE LIGHTS OF
CITIES WHERE
PEOPLE LIVED--
JEWELS IN THE
DARKNESS--
WERE SLOWLY
EXTINGUISHED...

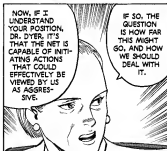
...AS THE
RESOURCES
OF THE ENTIRE
EARTH WERE
TAKEN OVER BY
ITS NEW RULER...
THE COMPUTER
NETWORK ITSELF.





AS YOU KNOW, THE *TITAN* SYSTEM IS ESSENTIAL TO THE FUNCTIONING OF OUR ENTIRE SOCIETY. BUT TWO WEEKS AGO AN EVENT OCCURRED ON THE MOON THAT HAS GIVEN US GRAVE DOUBTS ABOUT ITS CURRENT RELIABILITY.

WHAT YOU JUST SAW WAS A SIMULATION WE PREPARED WITH THE HELP OF PROFESSOR RAYMOND DYER OF *CUNY*. IT WAS DESIGNED TO DEMONSTRATE THE POTENTIAL PROBLEMS OF AN UPGRADED NETWORK.



NOW, IF I UNDERSTAND YOUR POSITION, DR. DYER, IT'S THAT THE NET IS CAPABLE OF INITIATING ACTIONS THAT COULD EFFECTIVELY BE VIEWED BY US AS AGGRESSIVE.

IF SO, THE QUESTION IS HOW FAR THIS MIGHT GO, AND HOW WE SHOULD DEAL WITH IT.



BEFORE I ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS, MADAME CHAIRWOMAN, THERE IS ONE POINT I'D LIKE TO STRESS.

THE NETWORK REPRESENTED IN THE SIMULATION WE JUST SAW WAS NOT *TITAN*, BUT SOMETHING FAR MORE ADVANCED.



MY TEAM OF SCIENTISTS IS CURRENTLY DEVELOPING A PROGRAM CALLED *FISE*, WHICH IS ONE STAGE MORE ADVANCED THAN *HESPER*.

THE SIMULATION WE SAW ASSUMES THAT IN THE FUTURE WE WILL INCORPORATE *FISE* INTO THE NETWORK AND THAT IT WILL EVOLVE INTO A SORT OF "SUPER-*TITAN*."



"FISE"
...?
"SUPER-
TITAN"
...?

YOU MUST BE JOKING!
WE'VE JUST HAD THE
EXISTING **TITAN**
NEARLY KILL
FIVE
PEOPLE!



WELL, CHIEF, LOOKS LIKE THE ANGRY VILLAGERS ARE ABOUT TO STORM THE CASTLE, WAVING TORCHES AND PITCH-FORKS...



OUR LIVES HAVE BEEN DRAMATICALLY ENRICHED BY THE **TITAN** COMPUTER NETWORK, AND A SUPER-**TITAN** COULD CONCEIVABLY ENGENDER ADVANCES UNPRECEDENTED IN HUMAN HISTORY. THAT'S THE **OTHER** FACE OF TOMORROW, THE ONE I BELIEVE IN.

ANOTHER IMPORTANT POINT IS THAT WHAT YOU'VE SEEN IS AN ABSOLUTE WORST-CASE SCENARIO. IN OTHER WORDS, IT'S JUST ONE FACE OF TOMORROW.



CLAP
CLAP
CLAP



WELL... AHM... SO, THERE ARE TWO FACES OF TOMORROW...

...BUT IT SEEMS TO ME WE HAVE **THREE** POSSIBLE COURSES OF ACTION.



WE CAN ALLOW **TITAN** TO GROW FURTHER, FREEZE IT WHERE IT IS NOW...

...OR DOWNGRADE IT BY TAKING **HESPER** OUT AND DEVOLVE IT TO THE OLD **EARTH-COM**.



ALL TALK OF A
"SUPER-TITAN"
ASIDE, IF WE LEAVE
IT AS IT IS WE
RISK A REPETITION
OF THE MASKELYNE
KIND OF ACCIDENT,
BUT MAYBE ON A
CATASTROPHIC
SCALE.



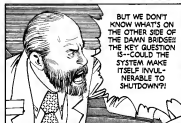
THERE-
FORE, AS
I SEE IT,
THE ONLY
REASONABLE
CHOICE OPEN
TO US IS
THE THIRD.



BUT EVEN
IF WE REVERT
BACK TO
EARTH-COM,
WE'RE ONLY
GOING TO HAVE
TO CROSS THE
BRIDGE SOMETIME
LATER ANYWAY.



THAT'S TRUE. IT
DOESN'T MATTER WHAT
KIND OF MACHINES WE
DEVELOP IN THE LAB AFTER
WE DOWNGRADE THE NET.
THE ONLY WAY WE'LL EVER
KNOW HOW A PLANETWIDE
COMPLEX OF THEM
WILL PERFORM
IS BY ACTUALLY
BUILDING IT.



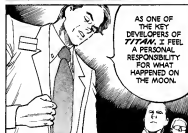
BUT WE DON'T
KNOW WHAT'S ON
THE OTHER SIDE OF
THE DAMN BRIDGE!!
THE KEY QUESTION
IS--COULD THE
SYSTEM MAKE
ITSELF INVUL-
NERABLE TO
SHUTDOWN?!

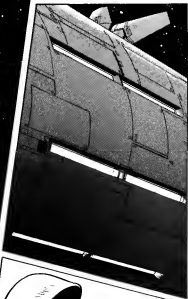


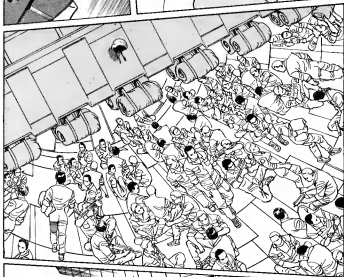
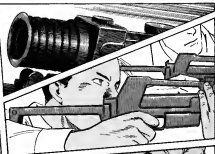
WE'VE
GOT TO
REVERT
TO
**EARTH-
COM!**

BUT
CIVI-
LIZATION
WILL
STAG-
NATE!









YO!
CHECK IT
OUT--
YOU CAN
SEE THE
ICARUS
COLONY!

WATCH IT, MAN,
THIS GIG IS
TOP SECRET!
USE THE "JANUS"
CODE NAME OR
INTEL'S GONNA
KICK YOUR
SORRY ASS!

JANUS:
IN ROMAN
MYTHOLOGY,
THE GOD WHO
WAS PATRON
OF BEGINNINGS
AND ENDINGS
AND WHO WAS
REPRESENTED
ARTISTICALLY
AS HAVING
TWO FACES.



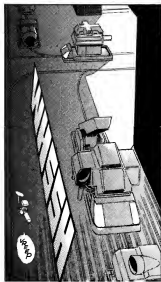
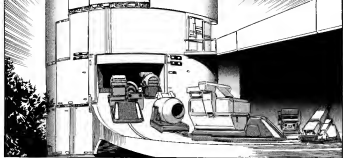


THE TWO FACES OF TOMORROW

02: Mobilization







THIS SPACE COLONY WAS ORIGINALLY BEING BUILT AS PART OF THE *ICARUS C* COLONIZATION PLAN, BUT IT'S BEEN REINCARNATED HERE AS *JANUS* FOR OUR EXPERIMENT.



LEMMIE GIVE
YOU THE NICKEL
TOUR, DR. DYER.
YOU CAN SEE HOW
THE TOROID LIVING
SPACE LOOKS LIKE
A GIANT TIRE—BUT
A TIRE WITH A
DIAMETER OF
8,000 FEET.



THE
SIX SPOKES
CONVERGE IN
THE CENTER AT
THE HUB OF THE
SYSTEM, AND
IN THE JANUS
WORLD THE
HUB IS
ALWAYS
"UP."

AS THE RIM
REVOLVES
AROUND THE
HUB 0.82 TIMES
PER MINUTE, IT
CREATES A
CENTRIFUGAL
FORCE THAT
SIMULATES
GRAVITY.



EVERYTHING
DOWN TO THE
SPIN DECOUPLER
UNDER THE HUB
REVOLVES. THE
MAIN SPINDLE
DIRECTLY BELOW
IT DOESN'T.



SEE THE
TWO GLOBE
SHAPES BELOW
THAT WHICH ARE
THE SAME SIZE AS
THE HUB--THE ONES
WITH THE SOLAR
POWER DISHES?
WE CALL THEM
"DETROIT" AND
"PITTSBURGH."



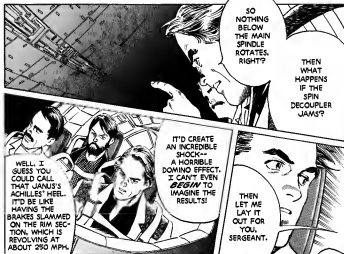




PITTSBURGH'S
WHERE THE
EXTRACTION
FACILITY IS
LOCATED, TO
PROCESS THE
LUNAR ORE THE
CATCHERS BRING
IN INTO RAW
MATERIALS.

DETROIT HAS
THE AUTOMATED
FACORIES THAT USE
THE RAW MATERIALS TO
PRODUCE WHATEVER'S DEMANDED.
EVERYTHING NEEDED FOR JANUS,
WHETHER IT'S ELECTRONIC PARTS
OR STRUCTURAL ITEMS, IS
MANUFACTURED HERE AND
THEN SENT TO THE HUB
OR THE RIM AREAS.

SOLAR POWER
PROVIDES
WHATEVER
ELECTRICITY'S
REQUIRED, BUT
THERE'S A BACKUP
FUSION PLANT
ON DETROIT IN
CASE OF
EMERGENCY.



SO
NOTHING
BELOW
THE MAIN
SPINDLE
ROTATES,
RIGHT?

THEN
WHAT
HAPPENS
IF THE
SPIN
DECOUPLER
JAMS?

WELL, I
GUESS YOU
COULD CALL
THAT JANUS'S
ACHILLES' HEEL.
IT'D BE LIKE
HAVING THE
BRAKES SLAMMED
ON THE RIM SEC-
TION, WHICH IS
REVOLVING AT
ABOUT 250 MPH.

IT'D CREATE
AN INCREDIBLE
SHOCK--
A HORRIBLE
DOMINO EFFECT.
I CAN'T EVEN
BEGIN TO
IMAGINE THE
RESULTS!

THEN
LET ME
LAY IT
OUT FOR
YOU,
SERGEANT.



THE RIM AND THE
HUB WOULD KEEP
TRYING TO REVOLVE,
AND GIVEN THE
MASS OF DETROIT
AND PITTSBURGH,
INERTIA WOULD
KEEP THEM STILL.
AND THEN...


SNAP!
IN AN INSTANT
JANUS WOULD
TWIST AND BREAK
IN TWO, AND
EVERYONE'D
REALLY BE
HEAVEN-BOUND!



WHEWWW...
NICE
THOUGHT,
RON.



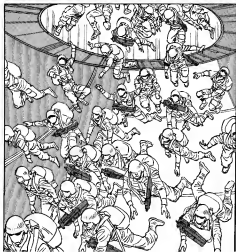
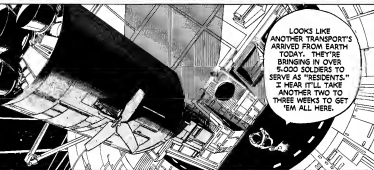
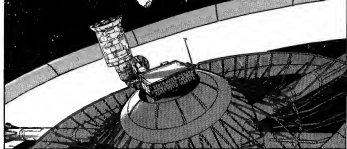
HOPE
YOU GUYS
KEEP
THAT
THING
WELL
OILED,
MATI



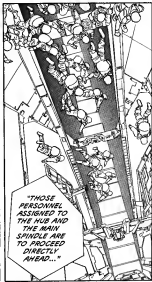
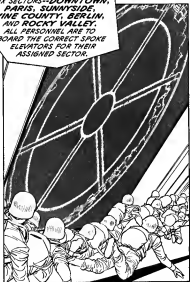
OKAY, FOR OUR FINALE,
WE'LL SWING BY THE
PRIMARY SOLAR REFLECTOR
AND RETURN VIA NORTHPORT.
TO ILLUMINATE JANUS.
SUNLIGHT IS FIRST BENT
BY A PRIMARY MIRROR
WITH A DIAMETER OF
ABOUT 7,000 FEET.

THE LIGHT
FROM THE PRIMARY
REFLECTOR IS THEN
BENT AGAIN BY
THE SECONDARY
REFLECTORS AND
THUS ILLUMINATES
THE ENTIRE INNER
RIM...

THE CEILING
PORTION OF THE
RIM HAS TERTIARY
REFLECTORS BUILT INTO
IT TO CUT RADIATION
FROM SPACE AND TO
SOFTEN THE LIGHT.
COSMIC RAYS ARE...AW.
HELL, YOU GUYS HAVE
PROBABLY HAD
ENOUGH LECTURING
FOR TODAY.



"ATTENTION--
THE RIM IS DIVIDED INTO
SIX SECTORS--**DOWNTOWN,**
PARIS, SUNNYSIDE,
VINE COUNTY, BERLIN,
AND ROCKY VALLEY.
ALL PERSONNEL ARE TO
BOARD THE CORRECT SPOKE
ELEVATORS FOR THEIR
ASSIGNED SECTOR.



"THOSE
PERSONNEL
ASSIGNED TO
THE HUB AND
THE MAIN
SPINDLE ARE
TO PROCEED
DIRECTLY
AHEAD..."

THANKS
FOR THE
TOUR,
MAT.
IT WAS
REALLY
FANTAS-
TIC.



JUST LET
ME KNOW
ANYTIME
YOU WANT
TO GO OUT-
SIDE AGAIN.
I'M ASSIGNED
TO OUTSIDE
MAINTENANCE...

CHIEF,
MAT'S ALSO
A MARKS-
MANSHIP
INSTRUCTOR
IN THE
MILITARY.



HE WAS
THE FELLOW
WHO TAUGHT
US DURING
OUR MISSION
PREP TRAINING
ON EARTH.



MATTER
OF FACT, I
SPECIALIZE
IN THE
GREMLIN
SYSTEM,
SIR.





CALM
DOWN, RAY.
GOOD OLD
CIM WERE
THE ONES
WHO SENT
ME UP
HERE.

CIM?

I'M A
WITNESS
TO WHAT
HAPPENED
ON THE MOON.
REMEM-
BER?

MY LIPS
HAVE BEEN
ORDERED
SEALED, BUT
HEY, WHO
KNOWS WHEN
I MIGHT
LET SOME
SECRETS
SLIP OUT?

SO *CIM* FIGURED
IT'S BETTER THAT
I BE TOSSED INTO A
PLACE LIKE THIS WITH
OTHERS WHO KNOW
THE SAME SECRETS--
RIGHT?

YEAH, BUT I
STILL FIND IT
INCREDIBLE
THAT *CIM*
WOULD LET
YOU KNOW
ABOUT THIS
PROJECT
JUST FOR
THAT...

WELLL...
IT MIGHT *ALSO*
BE BECAUSE
YOU FOLKS
DISAPPEARED
FROM EARTH,
AND I STARTED
ASKING UNCOM-
FORTABLE
QUESTIONS.
OR...

COME
OFF IT, RAY.
KRANTZ TOLD
ME IT WAS ALL
YOUR IDEA TO
HAVE ME SENT
UP HERE.
GUESS YOU
MISSED HAVING
ME AROUND,
HMM...?



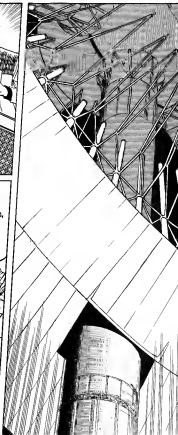
THAT
DAMN
KRANTZ
...!

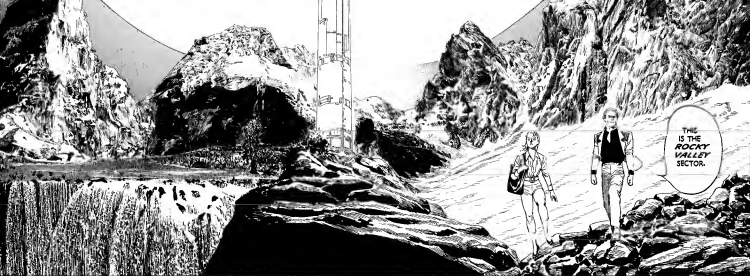


I'M
ASSIGNED TO
QUARTERS
DOWNTOWN.
WOULD YOU BE
SO KIND AS TO
CARRY MY BAG,
DR. DYER?



OKAY, OKAY.
THE ELEVATOR
FOR DOWNTOWN'S
PACKED,
SO LET'S
TAKE ONE IN
ANOTHER
SPOKE.





THIS
IS THE
**ROCKY
VALLEY**
SECTOR.

DOWNTOWN
HAS THE GOVERNMENT
CENTER, AND IT'S IN THE
NEXT SECTOR OVER.
IT'S ABOUT HALF A
MILE ON FOOT.

YOUR
BAGS WILL BE
DELIVERED TO YOUR
QUARTERS BY AN
UNDERGROUND
AUTOCAB. IT'S ALL
AUTOMATED.

IT...
IT'S
AMAZING.

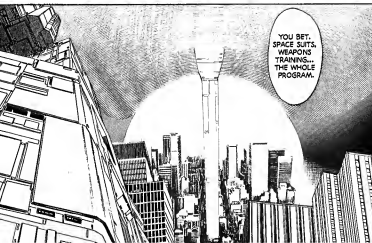
SO...
DO YOU
BELIEVE
IN THE
POWER OF
SCIENCE
NOW?

WELL,
IT IS
IMPRESSIVE,
BUT I'M
NOT
QUITE A
CONVERT
YET.

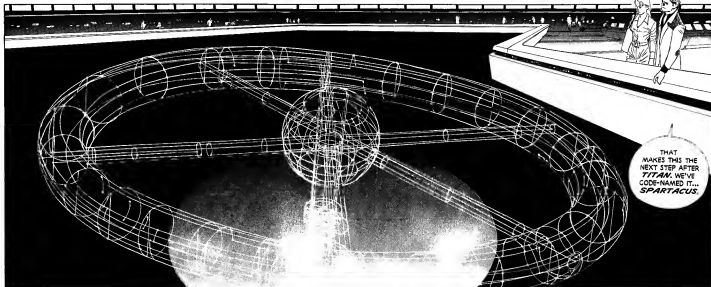
IN ANY
CASE, I'VE
BEEN SENT
HERE TO
RECORD HOW
YOU SCIENTISTS
REACT TO THIS
WHOLE THING.
I HAVE TO
STAY NEUTRAL,
RIGHT?

TELL ME
I'M DREAMING.
RAY. TELL ME
WE'RE STILL ON
EARTH AND
PEOPLE DIDN'T
MAKE ALL THIS.

LOOK,
RAY...THIS
EXPERIMENT
YOU'RE RUN-
NING HERE--
IT'S SOMEHOW
RELATED
TO WHAT
HAPPENED ON
THE MOON.
ISN'T IT?

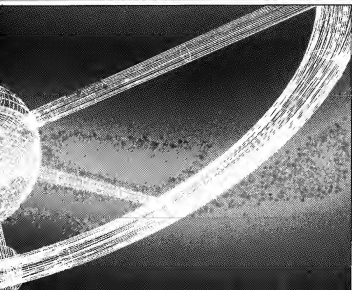








VREEEEE



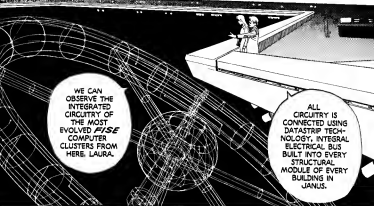
An abstract wireframe graphic on a black background. It features a complex network of thin white lines. Some lines are straight and intersect to form a grid-like structure, while others are curved, creating a sense of depth and movement. The lines appear to be part of a larger, unseen structure, possibly a building or a mechanical component, rendered in a technical or architectural style. The overall effect is one of intricate complexity and futuristic design.

THE TWO FACES OF TOMORROW

03: "Instinct," Then "Common Sense"



A
**SUPER-
TITAN**--
"SPARTACUS"
...?!

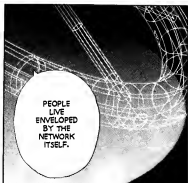


WE CAN
OBSERVE THE
INTEGRATED
CIRCUITRY OF
THE MOST
EVOLVED *FISE*
COMPUTER
CLUSTERS FROM
HERE, LAURA.

ALL
CIRCUITRY IS
CONNECTED USING
DATASTRIP TECH-
NOLOGY, INTEGRAL
ELECTRICAL BUS
BUILT INTO EVERY
STRUCTURAL
MODULE OF EVERY
BUILDING IN
JANUS.



THE
BUILDINGS
THEMSELVES
CONSTITUTE
FUNCTIONAL
EXTENSIONS OF
THE NETWORK'S
TOTAL
SWITCHING
HIERARCHY.



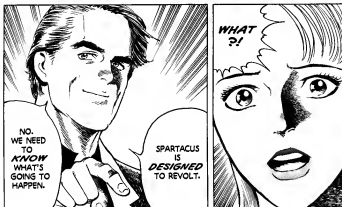
PEOPLE
LIVE
ENVELOPED
BY THE
NETWORK
ITSELF.



WASN'T
SPARTACUS
THE SLAVE
LEADER WHO
STAGED A
REVOLT IN
THE ROMAN
EMPIRE?

WITH
A NAME
LIKE THAT
IT ALMOST
SOUNDS
LIKE YOU'RE
*ENCOUR-
AGING*
TROUBLE...

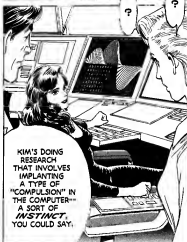
RAY...YOU'RE
RUNNING AN
EXPERIMENT
HERE TO SEE IF
THE COMPUTER
WILL STAGE A
REVOLT.
AREN'T YOU?

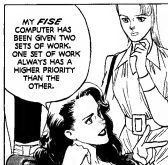


NO.
WE NEED
TO
KNOW
WHAT'S
GOING TO
HAPPEN.

SPARTACUS
IS
DESIGNED
TO REVOLT.

WHAT
?!





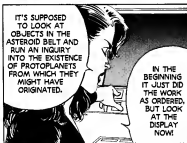
MY *FISE* COMPUTER HAS BEEN GIVEN TWO SETS OF WORK. ONE SET OF WORK ALWAYS HAS A HIGHER PRIORITY THAN THE OTHER.



BUT ON THE OTHER HAND, THE SUPERVISORY PROGRAM IS WRITTEN IN A SELF-EXTENDING CODE WITH A COMPULSION BUILT INTO IT MAKING IT WANT TO ACHIEVE THE LOW-PRIORITY GOALS AND NOT THE HIGH-PRIORITY ONES.



YOU SEE, NORMALLY THE SYSTEM WOULD JUST CARRY OUT OPERATIONS AS ORDERED. BUT IN THIS CASE IT HAS WORK IT "WANTS" TO DO, SO IT DEVELOPS CONFLICTS. WHAT SORT OF WORK HAVE YOU ASSIGNED IT, KIM?



IT'S SUPPOSED TO LOOK AT OBJECTS IN THE ASTEROID BELT AND RUN AN INQUIRY INTO THE EXISTENCE OF PROTOPLANETS FROM WHICH THEY MIGHT HAVE ORIGINATED.

IN THE BEGINNING IT JUST DID THE WORK AS ORDERED, BUT LOOK AT THE DISPLAY NOW!



THIS IS ALL IT'S BEEN DOING FOR THE LAST HOUR!



SO, IN OTHER WORDS,
THE COMPUTER HAS CREATED
A CODING STRUCTURE THAT
ALLOWS IT TO REVERSE THE
ORDER OF PRIORITIES IT WAS
ORIGINALLY ASSIGNED, SO IT
CAN DO WHAT IT WANTS.

IT'S
ABOUT
WHAT WE
EXPECTED,
BUT
MUCH
FASTER...



AND THE
SYSTEM
ABORT
COMMAND IS
TOTALLY
INEFFECTIVE
NOW, RAY.



?!

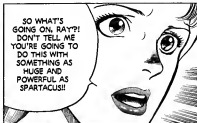
IT'S
IGNORING
THAT,
TOO?

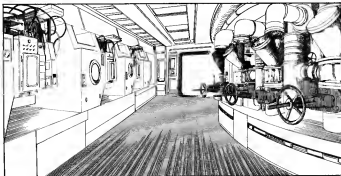
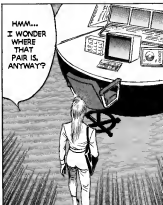
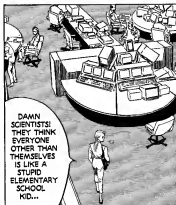
TAK
TAK



WELL,
THIS
IS A
SURPRISE.

IT'S JUST
IGNORING
US... ALL
IT CARES
ABOUT
IS THE
UNIVERSE.







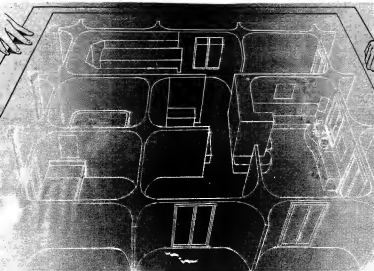
VR EEEEEEEEE



I REALLY HATE TO SAY IT, BUT LAURA'S GOT A POINT, RAY. EVEN I'M NOT SURE ANYMORE IF WHAT WE'RE DOING IS WISE.

WE'RE GOING TO BE IMPLANTING WHAT AMOUNTS TO A SURVIVAL INSTINCT INTO A POWERFUL AND POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS SYSTEM, AND THEN DELIBERATELY ATTACKING IT AND CREATING AN ENEMY.

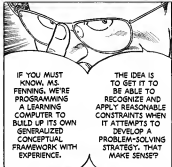




WHAT ARE YOU GUYS DOING IN HERE? GOOFING OFF AND PLAYING HOLO-GAMES?



SORRY, SORRY! JUST SORT OF A JOKE!



IF YOU MUST KNOW, MS. FENNING, WE'RE PROGRAMMING A LEARNING COMPUTER TO BUILD UP ITS OWN GENERALIZED CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK WITH EXPERIENCE.

THE IDEA IS TO GET IT TO BE ABLE TO RECOGNIZE AND APPLY REASONABLE CONSTRAINTS WHEN IT ATTEMPTS TO DEVELOP A PROBLEM-SOLVING STRATEGY. THAT MAKE SENSE?

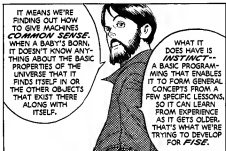
UH, SORRY, RON. I DON'T SPEAK COMPUTE-RESE.

COULD YOU TRANSLATE THAT INTO ENGLISH, CHRIS?



IT MEANS WE'RE FINDING OUT HOW TO GIVE MACHINES *COMMON SENSE*. WHEN A BABY'S BORN, IT DOESN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE BASIC PROPERTIES OF THE UNIVERSE THAT IT FINDS ITSELF IN OR THE OTHER OBJECTS THAT EXIST THERE ALONG WITH ITSELF.

WHAT IT DOES HAVE IS *INSTINCT*-- A BASIC PROGRAMMING THAT ENABLES IT TO FORM GENERAL CONCEPTS FROM A FEW SPECIFIC LESSONS, SO IT CAN LEARN FROM EXPERIENCE AS IT GETS OLDER. THAT'S WHAT WE'RE TRYING TO DEVELOP FOR *FISE*.

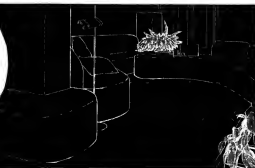


SO "COMMON SENSE" COMES AFTER "INSTINCT," EH? AND WHAT HAVE YOU GOT HERE?

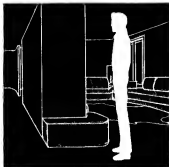


THAT'S *FISE*'S WORLD. WE'VE GIVEN HIM A VERY SIMPLE UNIVERSE SO THAT HE CAN GET HIS BASIC CONCEPTS STRAIGHT...

...WITHOUT HAVING TO WORRY ABOUT LOTS OF COMPLICATIONS THAT EXIST IN THE REAL WORLD.



AND THIS IS HECTOR. HE LIVES IN *FISE*'S WORLD ALONG WITH A FEW OTHER CHARACTERS.







...!

HECTOR!
IF YOU SMASH
THE EGGS, YOU
WON'T BE ABLE
TO EAT THEM!
PUT THEM
DOWN GENTLY!
GENTLY!

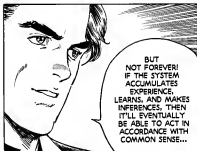


SO...
IS THIS
WHAT YOU
CALL AN
"INTELLIGENT
COMPUTER,"
RAY?



WE CAN'T
EXPECT TOO
MUCH. COMPUTERS
HAVE MAINLY
BEEN BUILT FOR
HIGHLY SPECIFIC
INFORMATION-
PROCESSING
TASKS.

THINGS LIKE KNOWING THAT
YOU HAVE TO ALTERNATELY
PUT ONE LEG IN FRONT OF
THE OTHER TO WALK, OR THAT
YOU CAN'T WALK THROUGH
TABLES, OR THAT YOU HAVE
TO OPEN THE FRIDGE DOOR
BEFORE TAKING THINGS
OUT--ALL THESE THINGS
HAVE TO BE TAUGHT.

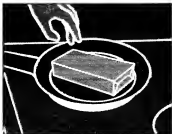


BUT
NOT FOREVER!
IF THE SYSTEM
ACCUMULATES
EXPERIENCE,
LEARNS, AND MAKES
INFERENCES, THEN
IT'LL EVENTUALLY
BE ABLE TO ACT IN
ACCORDANCE WITH
COMMON SENSE...

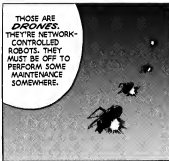


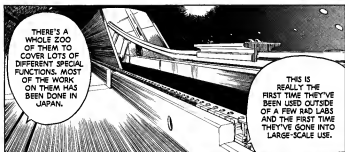
...AND IF
TITAN HAD
COMMON SENSE,
WE NEVER
WOULD HAVE
HAD THAT
ACCIDENT ON
THE MOON.











THERE'S A WHOLE ZOO OF THEM TO COVER LOTS OF DIFFERENT SPECIAL FUNCTIONS. MOST OF THE WORK ON THEM HAS BEEN DONE IN JAPAN.

THIS IS REALLY THE FIRST TIME THEY'VE BEEN USED OUTSIDE OF A FEW RAD LABS AND THE FIRST TIME THEY'VE GONE INTO LARGE-SCALE USE.



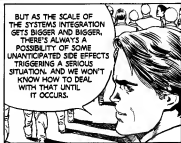
THE FLYING VERSIONS ARE USEFUL FOR DIAGNOSTICS AND QUICK, LIGHT REPAIRS. BUT THERE ARE LAND-BASED MODELS BIG ENOUGH TO MOVE STRUCTURAL MODULES.



IT'D BE GREAT IF THINGS STAYED THIS WAY. WOULDN'T IT...? EVERYTHING FROM HECTOR TO THE DRONES WORKING FOR US SO FAITHFULLY.



AS LONG AS THE NETWORK IS SIMPLY DOING WHAT IT'S DESIGNED TO DO WE'LL HAVE NO PROBLEMS. THIS IS WHAT *HESPER* AND *FISE* WERE BUILT FOR, AFTER ALL.



BUT AS THE SCALE OF THE SYSTEMS INTEGRATION GETS BIGGER AND BIGGER, THERE'S ALWAYS A POSSIBILITY OF SOME UNANTICIPATED SIDE EFFECTS TRIGGERING A SERIOUS SITUATION. AND WE WON'T KNOW HOW TO DEAL WITH THAT UNTIL IT OCCURS.



CLEARLY WE
CAN'T USE THE
TITAN SYSTEM
ON EARTH TO RUN
THIS EXPERIMENT.
BECAUSE IF IT FAILED
WE'D BE IMPERILING
THE FUTURE OF ALL
HUMANITY...

...BUT THE
JANUS SPACE
COLONY IS LIKE
AN AUTONOMOUS,
ULTRA-SMALL
PLANET OF
EXTRAORDINARY
COMPLEXITY.
COMPLETE WITH A
MINIATURE HUMAN
SOCIETY.

IF A
LARGE-SCALE
NETWORK GOES
BERSERK HERE,
WE CAN FIND
OUT WHAT WILL
HAPPEN. HOW
PEOPLE WILL
RESPOND. AND
WHAT WE CAN
DO ABOUT IT.

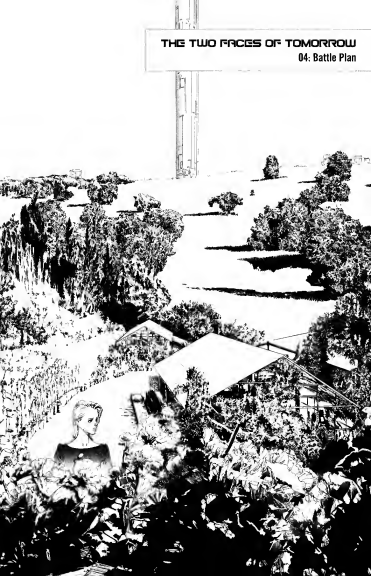


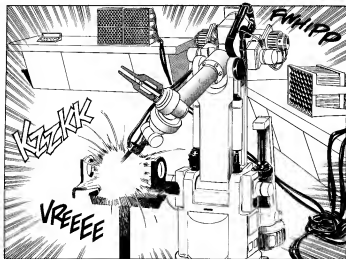
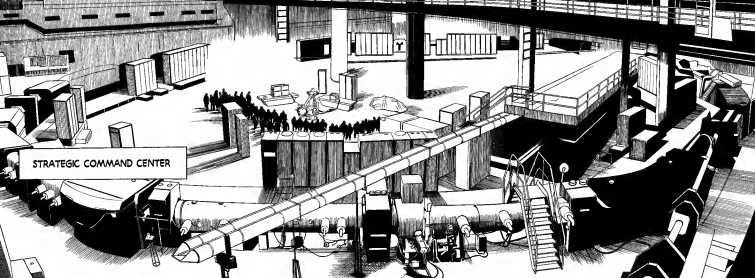
AND NO
MATTER WHAT
HAPPENS, IT'LL
BE CONFINED TO
THIS GIANT
ISOLATION LAB.
WE WON'T HAVE
TO EXPOSE EARTH
TO ANY DANGER
WHATSOEVER!

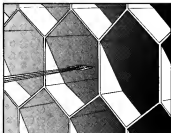


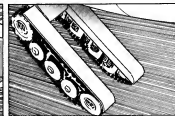
THE TWO FACES OF TOMORROW

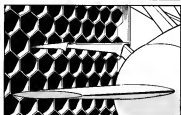
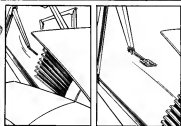
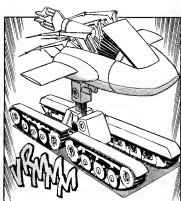
04: Battle Plan

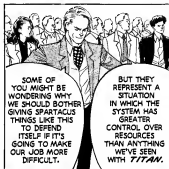






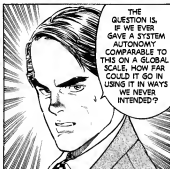






SOME OF YOU MIGHT BE WONDERING WHY WE SHOULD BOTHER GIVING SPARTACUS THINGS LIKE THIS TO DEFEND ITSELF IF IT'S GOING TO MAKE OUR JOB MORE DIFFICULT.

BUT THEY REPRESENT A SITUATION IN WHICH THE SYSTEM HAS GREATER CONTROL OVER RESOURCES THAN ANYTHING WE'VE SEEN WITH *TITAN*.



THE QUESTION IS, IF WE EVER GAVE A SYSTEM AUTONOMY COMPARABLE TO THIS ON A GLOBAL SCALE, HOW FAR COULD IT GO IN USING IT IN WAYS WE NEVER INTENDED?



FOR THIS PARTICULAR EXPERIMENT, WE'VE HAD YOU--SOME OF THE MOST PROMINENT RESEARCHERS AMONG OUR SCIENCE STAFF--ASSEMBLE HERE TODAY.

WE'RE GRACED WITH THE PRESENCE OF THE USA'S DR. MELVIN KRANTZ, THE HEAD OF SPACE COLONY CONSTRUCTION AND THE JANUS PROJECT.

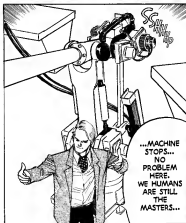


ALSO WITH US TODAY IS GENERAL MARK LINSAY, THE STRATEGIC COMMANDER FROM THE MILITARY.



SO, NOW I'M GOING TO DEMONSTRATE THE PURPOSE OF THE JANUS PROJECT. THE MACHINES ARE WORKING...

I CUT THE SWITCH...



...MACHINE STOPS... NO PROBLEM HERE. WE HUMANS ARE STILL THE MASTERS...

BUT WHAT IF THE MACHINE, BY SOME METHOD, COMES UP WITH A WAY TO AVOID HAVING ITS POWER TURNED OFF?


WILL WE HUMANS STILL BE IN CHARGE?





WITH THE
INCORPORATION
OF *FISE*,
SPARTACUS
IS NOW
PROGRAMMED
TO PRESERVE
ITS OWN
EXISTENCE.

IF EVEN ONE
CIRCUIT SOMEWHERE IS
DISCONNECTED, IT WILL
REACT BY CONSIDERING
THIS A THREAT TO ITS
CONTINUED OPERATION. IT
WILL THEN TAKE STEPS TO
CORRECT THE SITUATION
AND EVENTUALLY COME
UP WITH A WAY TO
AVOID DISCONNECTION
ALTOGETHER.



FOR EXAMPLE, IT MAY BYPASS
THE SWITCH AND TRY TO ESTABLISH
ANOTHER LINK, ONE ENTIRELY UNDER
ITS OWN CONTROL. OF COURSE,
BEING A COMPUTER, IT'S LIMITED
IN WHAT IT CAN ACCOMPLISH
PHYSICALLY. BUT BY USING
THE DRONES IT HAS ALMOST
COMPLETE CONTROL OVER
ITS ENVIRONMENT.

THE
QUESTION IS:
*WILL WE
BE ABLE
TO STOP
IT?*



DR. DYER...
IT'S PRETTY RISKY
TO CHALLENGE A
POWERFUL, INTELLI-
GENT COMPUTER
SYSTEM LIKE THIS.
DO YOU REALLY
THINK IT'S WISE TO
GIVE IT CONTROL OF
THESE DRONES...?



WE'RE
TALKING
ABOUT
"TOMOR-
ROW,"
GENERAL!

"IN THE NEAR
FUTURE, IF A
SUPER-TITAN
NETWORK IS INTRO-
DUCED ON EARTH,
THERE WILL **HAVE**
TO BE DRONES TO
MAINTAIN THE HUGE
NUMBER OF CIRCUITS
AND MACHINERY.



"IF THE JANUS
EXPERIMENT
DOESN'T
REPLICATE
THOSE FUTURE
CONDITIONS AS
CLOSELY AS
POSSIBLE,
IT'LL BE
MEANINGLESS."

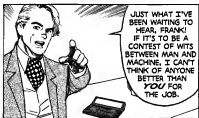


I
UNDER-
STAND
THE
IDEA,
RAY...



...BUT
WHAT
I **DON'T**
UNDERSTAND
IS WHY WE
NEED AN
EXPERIMENT
ON SUCH
A GRAND
SCALE.

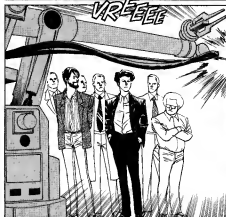
IF IT'S
JUST A
MATTER OF
GETTING RID OF
THOSE JUNKY
DRONES AND
SHUTTING OFF
THE MACHINES,
THERE'S PLENTY
OF WAYS I
CAN THINK OF
TO DO IT.



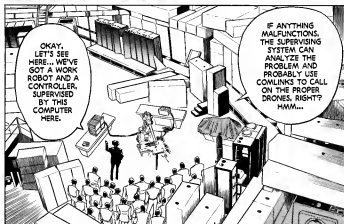
JUST WHAT I'VE
BEEN WAITING TO
HEAR, FRANK!
IF IT'S TO BE A
CONTEST OF WITS
BETWEEN MAN AND
MACHINE, I CAN'T
THINK OF ANYONE
BETTER THAN
YOU FOR
THE JOB.



SO, LET'S BEGIN--
IN THE
HUMAN CORNER,
DR. FRANK WESCOTT!

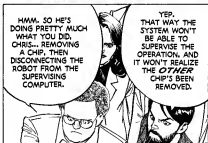
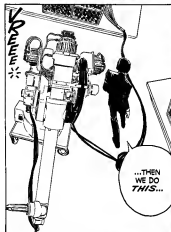
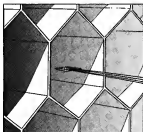


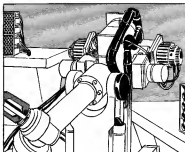
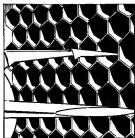
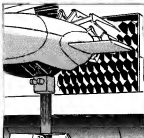
HEH...!

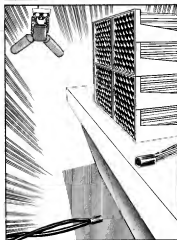


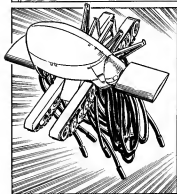
OKAY,
LET'S SEE
HERE... WE'VE
GOT A WORK
ROBOT AND A
CONTROLLER,
SUPERVISED
BY THIS
COMPUTER
HERE.

IF ANYTHING
MALFUNCTIONS,
THE SUPERVISING
SYSTEM CAN
ANALYZE THE
PROBLEM AND
PROBABLY USE
COMLINKS TO CALL
ON THE PROPER
DRONES, RIGHT?
HMM...

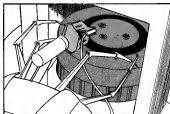
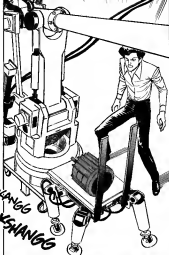












ALL RIGHT,
WHO'S NEXT?
I'LL TURN
YOU ALL
INTO PILES
OF SCRAP!

THIS IS
HOW
TO STOP
MACHINES!



OKAY,
FRANK.
YOU
WIN.

BUT IF HUNDREDS OF
DRONES CAME AT US,
WE'D BE OVERWHELMED.
DON'T FORGET, SPARTACUS
CAN MAKE AS MANY
DRONES AS IT WANTS IN
ITS AUTOFACTORIES.

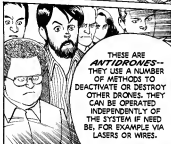
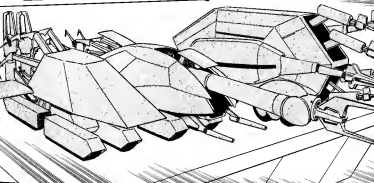


AND LET'S
NOT LOSE
SIGHT OF OUR
GOAL HERE.
WE'RE NOT
TRYING TO FIND
A WAY TO
DESTROY THE
COMPUTER.

BUT IF SPARTACUS
CAN EASILY BEAT US,
HUMANS'LL HAVE TO GIVE
UP THE IDEA OF USING
COMPUTER NETWORKS.

SO WE
CAN'T
AFFORD
TO LOSE!

FWWP



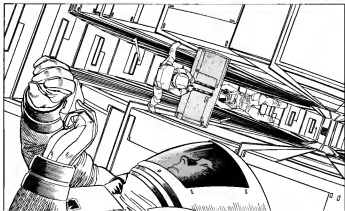
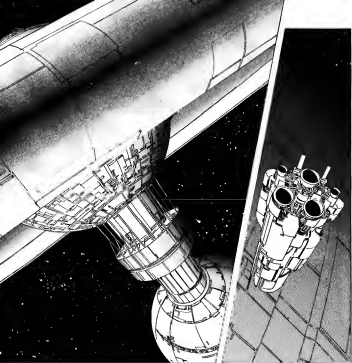
THESE ARE
ANTIDRONES--
THEY USE A NUMBER
OF METHODS TO
DEACTIVATE OR DESTROY
OTHER DRONES. THEY
CAN BE OPERATED
INDEPENDENTLY OF
THE SYSTEM IF NEED
BE, FOR EXAMPLE VIA
LASERS OR WIRES.



WE'VE PUT A
LOT OF WORK INTO
ANALYZING THE KINDS
OF THINGS SPARTACUS
MIGHT POSSIBLY DO,
AND WE'VE BUILT
IN ALL KINDS OF
SAFETY OVER-
RIDES TO MAKE
SURE WE ALWAYS
HAVE ULTIMATE
CONTROL OVER
IT.

BUT WHAT WE REALLY
WANT TO KNOW IS HOW
THE COMPUTER IS GOING
TO DEFEND ITSELF AGAINST
OUR "ATTACKS" AND HOW
IT IS GOING TO EVOLVE
ITS DEFENSES.



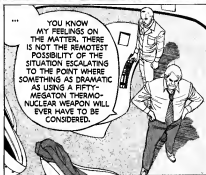




UNDER-
STOOD.
GOOD
WORK.



I JUST GOT
WORD THAT
"OMEGA"
HAS BEEN
SUCCESSFULLY
INSTALLED
AND CHECKED
WITHOUT
COMPLI-
CATIONS.



...
YOU KNOW
MY FEELINGS ON
THE MATTER. THERE
IS NOT THE REMOTEST
POSSIBILITY OF THE
SITUATION ESCALATING
TO THE POINT WHERE
SOMETHING AS DRAMATIC
AS USING A FIFTY-
MEGATON THERMO-
NUCLEAR WEAPON WILL
EVER HAVE TO BE
CONSIDERED.



ALL THE
BETTER IF WE
NEVER USE IT,
DR. KRANTZ.
THE SECRETARIES
OF CIA, ISA,
AND EVEN THE
PRESIDENT FEEL
THE SAME WAY.

I
KNOW
IT'S
SICK.
BUT IT
HAS TO
BE.



IF IT'S NEVER USED,
THEN NO HARM CAN
COME OF IT. IF IT HAS
TO BE USED, THEN THE
WHOLE EXPERIMENT WILL
HAVE AVOIDED SOMETHING
HAPPENING WORLDWIDE
ONE DAY THAT WE
WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN
ABLE TO STOP.

SOMETIMES
A FEW LIVES
HAVE TO BE
GAMBLLED TO
PROTECT MANY.
IT'S A SOLDIER'S
JOB--
YOU CAN'T
PICK AND
CHOOSE.



THE WHOLE
THING IS A
GROSS AND UGLY
EXAGGERATION--
A PRODUCT OF
THE PARANOIA
BRED INTO THE
MILITARY MIND OR
THE POLITICIAN'S
COMPULSIVE
ADDICTION TO
SECURITY.

OMEGA
WILL NEVER BE
USED. AFTER THE
EXPERIMENT HAS
BEEN CONCLUDED THE
DEVICE WILL BE QUIETLY
DISMANTLED AND THE
WHOLE SHODDY EPISODE
BURIED SOMEWHERE
IN THE CLASSIFIED
ARCHIVES.
THAT'S ALL I HAVE
TO SAY.



ALL
PREPARATIONS
WERE FINALLY
COMPLETED.
ONLY ONE DAY
REMAINED UNTIL
SPARTACUS AND
THE HUMANS
WOULD BEGIN
BATTLING EACH
OTHER...



THE TWO FACES OF TOMORROW

05: The Battle Begins



MAINTAINING
A DISTANCE
OF FIFTY MILES
FROM JANUS
STRUCTURE. JANUS
EXPERIMENT TO
COMMENCE
SOON.



SO
WHAT'S
THE NEXT
STEP,
LIEUTEN-
ANT...?

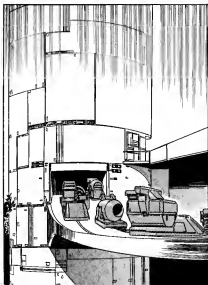
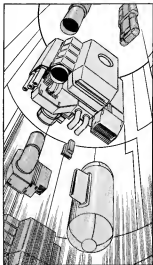
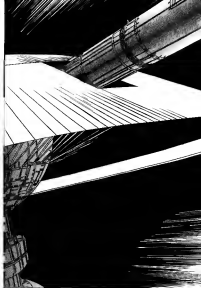
THEY'RE GOING
TO TRY TO GET
THE COMPUTER
THAT CONTROLS
EVERYTHING ON
THE SPACE COLONY
TO STAGE A
REVOLT...THAT'S
WHAT.

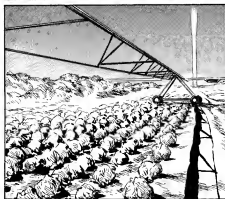
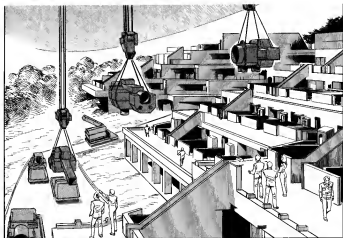
HELL. IF OUR
ANCESTORS HAD
BEEN GIVEN A
CHANCE LIKE THAT
DURING SLAVERY
DAYS IN AMERICA,
WE COULD HAVE
SKIPPED THE
WHOLE CIVIL
WAR!

ALL
SUPERVISORY
SYSTEMS
NORMAL.
PREPARATIONS
FOR DATA
RECEPTION
COMPLETED.











SYS 2,
LEVEL ONE
MONITOR.
WHAT'S THE
REPORT
ON THE
INTEGRATION
CHECKS?



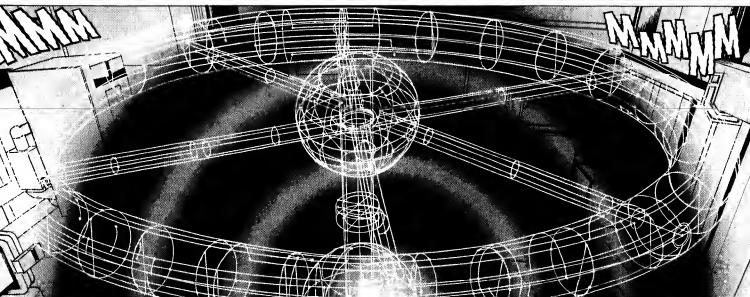
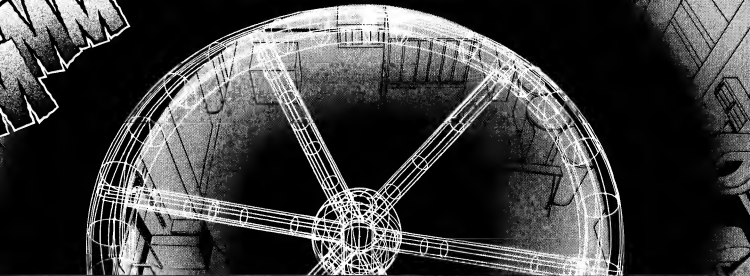
BU TWO-
TWO TO
FOUR-ZERO,
POSITIVE.
CV
ONE-FIVE TO
THREE-SIX,
POSITIVE.
CX IS
OKAY.

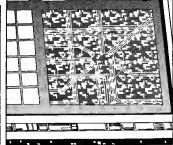
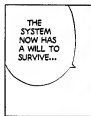
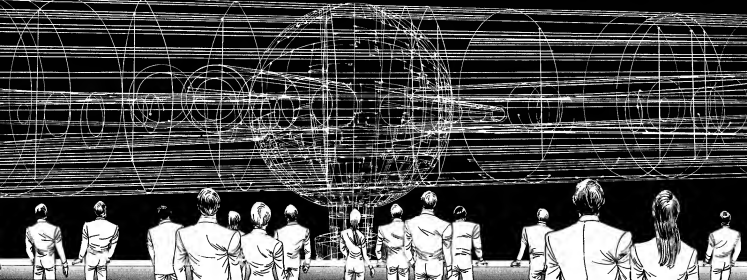


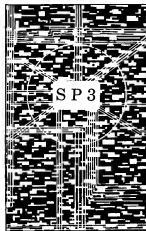
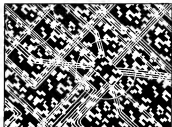
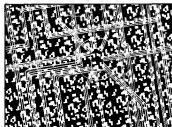
VREEEEEE

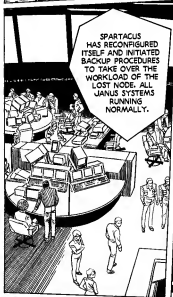
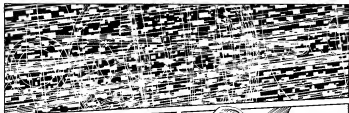








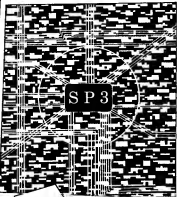




SPARTACUS
HAS RECONFIGURED
ITSELF AND INITIATED
BACKUP PROCEDURES
TO TAKE OVER THE
WORKLOAD OF THE
LOST NODE. ALL
JANUS SYSTEMS
RUNNING
NORMALLY.



OKAY.
LET'S
RESTORE
SP-3,
THEN.



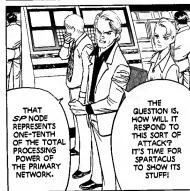
SYSTEM
HAS BEEN
REPOLLED.
SPARTACUS
NOW APPEARS
TO BE
OPERATING
AT PEAK
LEVEL
AGAIN!





ACTIVATE
THE FORCED
SHUTDOWN
PROGRAM.

START
CYCLING
THE
SHUTDOWN-
RESTORE
SEQUENCE
ONCE EVERY
SECOND.



THAT
SP NODE
REPRESENTS
ONE-TENTH
OF THE TOTAL
PROCESSING
POWER OF
THE PRIMARY
NETWORK.

THE
QUESTION IS,
HOW WILL IT
RESPOND TO
THIS SORT OF
ATTACK? IT'S
TIME FOR
SPARTACUS
TO SHOW ITS
STUFF!



YOU'RE
DELIBERATELY
SHUTTING IT
DOWN AND
RESTORING IT
TO SEE WHAT
SPARTACUS WILL
DO TO KEEP
RUNNING AT FULL
CAPABILITY.
AREN'T YOU,
RAY?

BUT WHAT
MAKES YOU
THINK IT'S
GOING TO DO
ANYTHING AT
ALL? DOESN'T
SPARTACUS
HAVE ROUTINES
TO DEAL WITH
THIS SORT OF
THING?

DON'T FORGET,
LAURA--
SPARTACUS
NOW HAS A
**SURVIVAL
INSTINCT**
PROGRAMMED
INTO IT. IT'S
BECOME A
CREATURE WITH
A WILL TO
LIVE.



WITHOUT THE
FISE PROGRAMMING,
YOU'RE CORRECT--IT WOULD
JUST BLINDLY REDISTRIBUTE
WORKLOAD AS THE SYSTEM
CYCLED ON AND OFF.
BUT WITH **FISE**, THE
PROGRAM RECOGNIZES
THAT PART OF THE SYSTEM
IS "VULNERABLE."



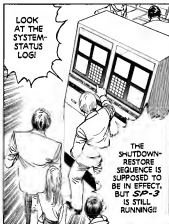
AND SPARTACUS
DOESN'T LIKE
THAT. IF ONE
NODE CAN BE
SHUT OFF, WHAT'S
TO PREVENT
THAT HAPPENING
TO **ALL** OF
THEM?



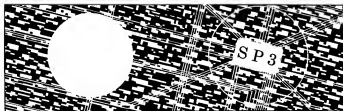
SO NOW
SPARTACUS
DOESN'T
WANT TO
"DIE"...?



VREEEE **EEEEEE**









RAY,
SPARTACUS
HAS
RESPONDED BY
SWITCHING
IN THE
SECONDARY
POWER
SUPPLY.

EXTEND
THE SHUT-OFF
PROGRAM
TO THE
SECONDARY,
KIM.



THE
SWITCHING
COMPUTER
DOESN'T
RESPOND!

LOCATE
THE PLACE
GENERATING
THE INTER-
RUPT--SEE IF
SPARTACUS
IS ALTERING
THE
PROGRAM.



IF SO,
CUT IT OFF
FROM THE
SPARTACUS
NET AND RUN
IT IN
ISOLATION.



IT'S NO USE,
DR. DYER...
IT'S STARTED
CREATING
ALTERNATIVE
PATHS THROUGH
OTHER SECTIONS
OF THE
MATRIX!



HMM...
NOT BAD
FOR A
MACHINE...
A WORTHY
MATCH OF WITS
HERE...!



WHAT'S
H-
HAP-
PENING
HERE,
RAY?

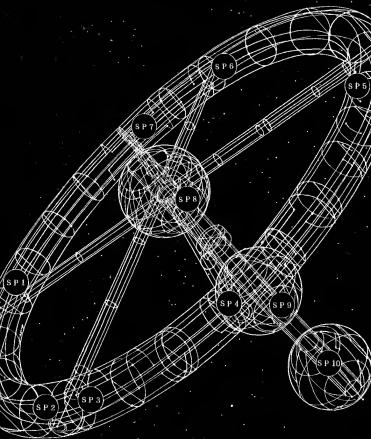


IT'S PRETTY
MUCH AS WE
EXPECTED, LAURA.
ALL CIRCUITS ARE
STILL UP AND
RUNNING. BUT
SPARTACUS IS BEG-
NING TO TAKE
OUR CHALLENGE
SERIOUSLY...



THE TWO FACES OF TOMORROW

06: Pulling the Plug





LET'S JUST
USE THE
SP-3 POWER
SUBSTATION
MANUAL BUS
DISCONNECT.



I AGREE.
THIS
COULD
GO ON
FOREVER.

EVERY TIME
SPARTACUS FIGURES
OUT A NEW PATH,
IT TAKES US TWICE AS
LONG TO CRACK AS
THE ONE BEFORE.

WE'RE ALREADY AT
THE POINT WHERE, IF
THIS SYSTEM WAS AS
BIG AS *TITAN*,
WE'D NEED YEARS TO
FIGURE OUT HOW TO
SHUT THE DAMN
THING DOWN.





DISCONNECT
COMPLETED.
DR. DYER...

SP 3

SP-3
DRAWING
ZERO
POWER.



VREEEEEEEEEEEEEE
MMMMMM





HEY, DOC...
YOU OUGHT TO
COME
SEE HOW
HECTOR'S
DOING.

SORRY, GUYS,
I'VE GOT TOO
MUCH WORK
TO FINISH HERE.
HAS HE LEARNED
TO CLEAN HIS
ROOM YET?



HE GOT RID OF
THE TRASH, BUT
NOW THE ROOM'S
FILLED WITH BUSTED
GLASS. WHEN
I TOLD HIM TO
PUT THE GARBAGE
OUTSIDE HE THREW
THE TRASH CAN
THROUGH THE
WINDOW. YEESH...



TONY...DO
ME A FAVOR AND
COMPILE A RECORD
OF DRONE ACTIVITY
THROUGHOUT JANUS
THIS EVENING AND
PLACE IT IN MY
MAILBOX. JUST
A PRECAUTION.

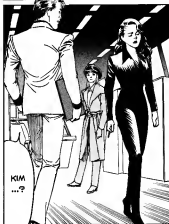
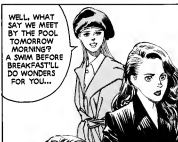
SURE,
DR.
DYER.



HI, KIM,
GOT TIME
FOR A DRINK
SOMEPLACE?



OH...
HI,
LAURA.



WHAT WE'VE REALLY BEEN DOING WITH THESE TEST PROGRAMS HAS BEEN SIMULATING POWER FAULTS JUST TO SEE HOW IT REACTS.

THERE ARE STILL A LOT OF PLACES ON EARTH WHERE THE POWER CAN SOMETIMES BE UNRELIABLE, AND FOR SPARTACUS, A POWER OUTAGE MEANS **DEATH**.



NOW SUPPOSE THAT A SYSTEM ON EARTH HAD REACTED TO THEM IN THE SAME WAY THAT SPARTACUS HAS.

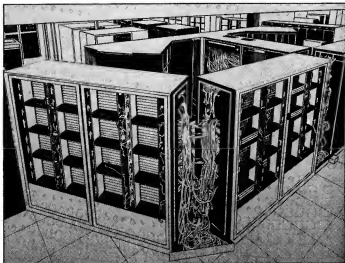
YOU COULD FIND THAT IT HAD TRAINED **ITSELF** EVEN BEFORE YOU DISCOVER THAT IT'S DEVELOPED A SURVIVAL DRIVE AT ALL.



SO BY THE TIME YOU DECIDE THAT YOU'D LIKE TO SHUT IT DOWN, IT'S ALREADY GONE A LONG WAY DOWN THE ROAD TO FIGURING OUT HOW TO STOP YOU FROM DOING IT.



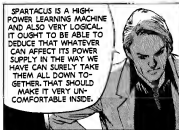
ANYWAY, TOMORROW WE'LL DO WHAT YOU SAID-- HIT IT WITH SUB-STATION DISCONNECTS AT SEVERAL SUPER-PRIMARIES JUST LIKE THIS ONE. WHO KNOWS, YOU COULD BE RIGHT. WITH LUCK IT WON'T BE ABLE TO FIGURE OUT A WAY AROUND THOSE.



IS IT
POSSIBLE IT
COULD...?



THERE ARE TEN *SP*
NODES LIKE THIS, AND
SEVERAL HUNDRED LITTLE
SECONDARY NODES.
THESE FORM SPARTACUS'
ENTIRE BRAIN AND
GIVE IT THE POWER
TO CONTROL ALL
OF JANUS...



SPARTACUS IS A HIGH-
POWER LEARNING MACHINE
AND ALSO VERY LOGICAL.
IT OUGHT TO BE ABLE TO
DEDUCE THAT WHATEVER
CAN AFFECT ITS POWER
SUPPLY IN THE WAY WE
HAVE CAN SURELY TAKE
THEM ALL DOWN TO-
GETHER. THAT SHOULD
MAKE IT VERY UN-
COMFORTABLE INSIDE.

HUMAN-CONTROLLED NETWORK

DATA SYSTEM
SUPERVISORY PROGRAM ZONE
(COMMAND CENTER)

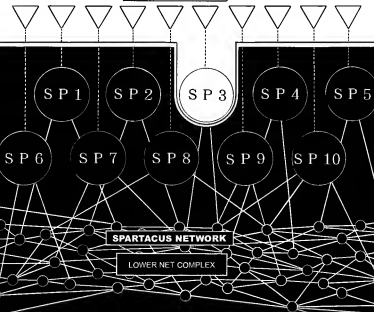
*"BUT IN
REALITY, WE
HUMANS HAVE
INSTALLED
AN ENTIRELY
SEPARATE
NETWORK ON
JANUS, WHICH
CAN OVERSEE
EVERYTHING."*

*"THESE MANUAL
SUBSTATIONS ARE
NOTHING MORE
THAN A SAFETY
SWITCH THAT
ALLOWS US TO
SHUT OFF POWER
TO THE SP
NODES AT WILL."*

MANUAL SUBSTATIONS

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

BACK-UP SUBSTATIONS





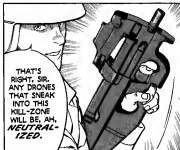
RIGHT NEXT
TO *SP-3*
IS THE SUB-
STATION WE
USED EARLIER
TO CUT THE
MAIN POWER
BUS.



SPARTACUS
ISN'T AWARE OF
THIS SYSTEM WE'VE
BUILT. BUT OF COURSE,
TO REACTIVATE
THE *SP-3*, IT COULD
HAVE DRONES TRACE
THE MAIN POWER
LINE BACK HERE AND
MANUALLY THROW
THIS SWITCH.



THAT'S
WHEN WE
RELY ON
THESE
FELLOWS!



THAT'S
RIGHT, SIR.
ANY DRONES
THAT SNEAK
INTO THIS
KILL-ZONE
WILL BE, AH,
*NEUTRAL-
IZED.*

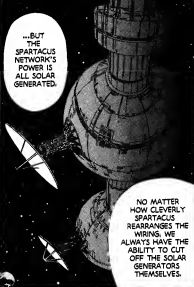


HMM...
NOW I
UNDERSTAND
WHY WE
BROUGHT
ALL THOSE
SOLDIERS AND
WEAPONS
UP HERE.

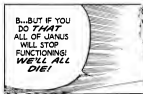
...BUT
THE
SPARTACUS
NETWORK'S
POWER IS
ALL SOLAR
GENERATED.



THE ONLY
THING LEFT FOR
SPARTACUS TO
DO WOULD BE TO
SOMEHOW BRING
ITS OWN POWER
LINES INTO
THE *SP-3*
NODE...



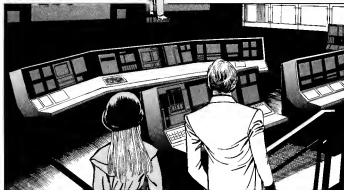
NO MATTER
HOW CLEVERLY
SPARTACUS
REARRANGES THE
WIRING, WE
ALWAYS HAVE THE
ABILITY TO CUT
OFF THE SOLAR
GENERATORS
THEMSELVES.



B...BUT IF YOU
DO *THAT*
ALL OF JANUS
WILL STOP
FUNCTIONING!
**WE'LL ALL
DIE!**



LET ME
SHOW YOU
ANOTHER
SAFETY
MEASURE
WE'VE
TAKEN.





THIS IS ONE OF
TEN MANUALLY
CONTROLLED
SUBSTATIONS.
ONE FOR EACH
SP NODE
SPARTACUS
HAS.

IN AN
EMERGENCY
SITUATION WE
CAN MAINTAIN
JANUS AT
THE MINIMUM
LEVEL NECES-
SARY FOR
SURVIVAL
BECAUSE...



...*OUR*
POWER
COMES
FROM
A FUSION
PLANT!



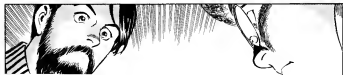
WE BUILT
ONE IN THE
DETROIT BLOCK
AND CONNECTED IT
TO AN OFF-NET
POWER GRID. SO WE
HAVE A FREE HAND
IN DEALING WITH
SPARTACUS RIGHT UP
TO AND INCLUDING
TOTAL DESTRUCTION
OF THE SOLAR
DISHES!

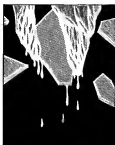


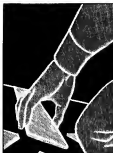
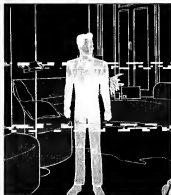
HMM...
AN
IRON-CLAD
DEFENSE?
YOU'RE
ALWAYS
SO
CONFIDENT,
RAY...

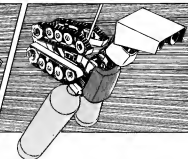
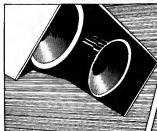


I'M JUST
GIVING YOU THE
OPINION OF THE
MAJORITY OF OUR
SCIENTISTS, LAURA.
IT'D BE ALMOST
IMPOSSIBLE
FOR SPARTACUS
TO BREAK
THROUGH THE
SUBSTATIONS.

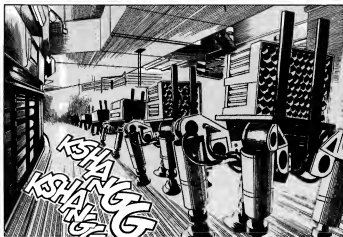
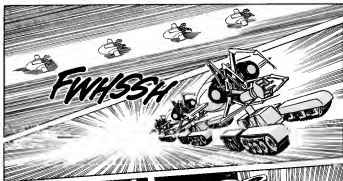


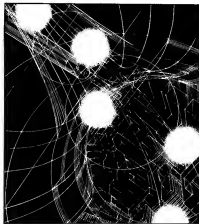
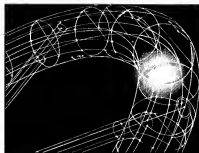


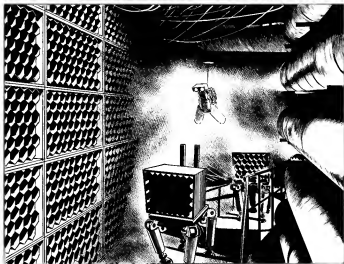
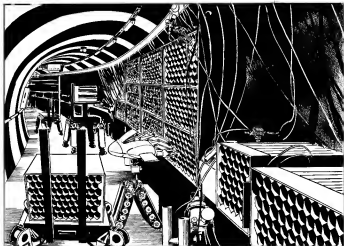






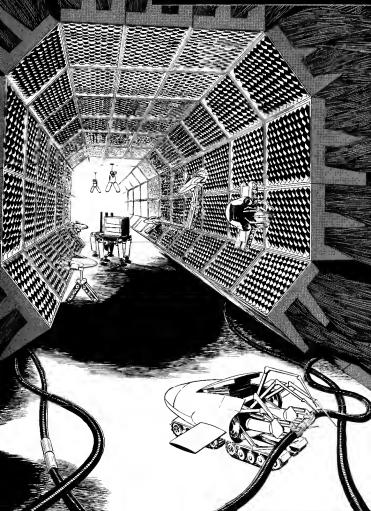




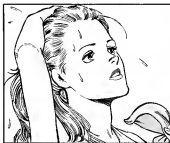


THE TWO FACES OF TOMORROW

07: Evolution









IT'S NOT
A PLEASANT
SUBJECT,
UNFORTU-
NATELY.

FRED THINKS
THAT IN A FEW
CENTURIES FROM
NOW THE
DOMINANT FORM
OF INTELLIGENCE
WON'T BE US.
HE DOESN'T EVEN
THINK IT'LL
BE ORGANIC.



THAT'S
NO SURPRISE
TO ME AFTER
WHAT I'VE
SEEN HERE
OVER THE
LAST FEW
DAYS.

I MEAN,
YOU *ARE*
TALKING
ABOUT
MACHINES.
RIGHT?



IT'S AN
INEVITABLE EVOLU-
TIONARY STEP. BUT
THIS ISN'T WHAT WE
REFER TO WHEN WE
NORMALLY TALK
ABOUT THE ORGANIC
EVOLUTION OF
LIFE-FORMS.

WE'RE
TALKING
ABOUT
SOMETHING
MUCH
LARGER,
SOMETHING
MUCH MORE
UNIVERSAL.



A
SORT
OF
COSMIC
EVOLU-
TION?



LAURA, YOU
KNOW ABOUT THE
SECOND LAW OF
THERMODYNAMICS,
RIGHT? IT BASICALLY
SAYS THAT IF YOU
JUST LEAVE THINGS
BE, THEY EVENTUALLY
BECOME MORE
DISORDERED AND
ANARCHIC.

EVENTUALLY
ALL OF THE
VARIOUS ENERGY
LEVELS IN THE
UNIVERSE REACH
EQUILIBRIUM AND
BECOME
HOMOGENEOUS.
THE UNIVERSE
THEN REVERTS
TO CHAOS.



WELL, I KNEW THAT
MUCH, BUT ISN'T
LIFE ITSELF AN
EXCEPTION TO THAT
RULE? LIVING THINGS
SEEM TO BE GETTING
MORE AND MORE
COMPLEX AND
ORGANIZED.

A black and white illustration of a man with a mustache, looking upwards and pointing his right index finger. He has a slight smile.

EXACTLY!
EVOLUTION CAN
BE SAID TO BE
A LOCALIZED
REVERSAL OF
ENTROPY.

BUT
IF THAT'S
TRUE...

A large, bright, circular area with a textured, radiating pattern, resembling a sun or a nebula, set against a dark background.

"...ENTROPY
REVERSALS
STARTED WHEN
THE FIRST ATOMIC
NUCLEUS CAME
TOGETHER OUT
OF THE BIG
BANG PLASMA.

"THE ATOMIC
NUCLEI CREATED
ATOMS, THEN
MOLECULES, STARS,
AND PLANETS...
MOVING TOWARDS
GREATER AND
GREATER
COMPLEXITY
AND ORDER.

A collage of various celestial bodies. In the upper left is a large, cratered sphere (like the Moon). In the center is a bright, glowing crescent shape. To the right is a detailed spiral galaxy. In the bottom right corner is a portion of the Earth, showing clouds and continents. The background is dark with some smaller stars or distant galaxies.

"THIS PROCESS
HAS BEEN
OCCURRING
FOR AT LEAST
TWENTY
BILLION
YEARS.



"WHAT WE CALL
EVOLUTION—
ORGANIC EVOLU-
TION, THAT IS—
IS ONLY A TINY
PART OF A MUCH
BIGGER SPECTRUM
OF EVOLUTION
THAT'S BEEN
GOING ON FOR
ALL OF TIME.

"SELF-
REPLICATING
MOLECULES,
CELLS, MULTI-
CELLULAR
ORGANISMS,
BRAINS, INTEL-
LIGENCE..."



YOU'RE SAYING
THAT YOU
COULDN'T HAVE
BRAINS UNTIL
THERE WAS LIFE,
AND YOU
COULDN'T HAVE
INTELLIGENCE
UNTIL YOU HAD
A BRAIN...
RIGHT?



EVOLUTION'S
BEEN GOING ON
FOR BILLIONS OF
YEARS. THERE'S NO
REASON FOR IT
TO STOP NOW,
LAURA.

AND ULTIMATELY,
INORGANIC
INTELLIGENCE IS
GOING TO BE FAR
SUPERIOR TO
ORGANIC
INTELLIGENCE.



"BUT IT'S NOT
SOMETHING
THAT NATURE
CAN CREATE.
ONLY HUMANS
CAN MAKE
MACHINES.

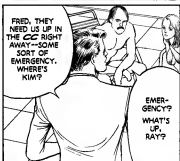
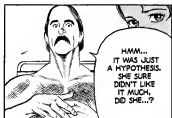
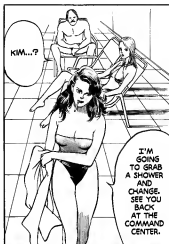


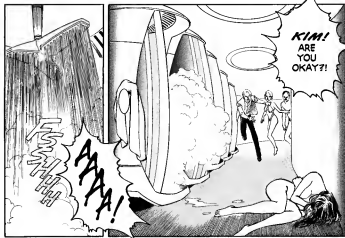
"WE MAY BE
THE ONLY
SPECIES EVER IN
HISTORY THAT
KNEW WHAT IT
WAS DOING
WHEN IT
CREATED ITS
SUCCESSOR."



WELL,
IN MY
OPINION,
THAT
MEANS WE
CAN ALSO
DECIDE
NOT TO
CREATE
IT.

BECAUSE
MACHINES
CAN'T
REPLICATE
THEM-
SELVES...
AT LEAST,
NOT YET!









SYSTEMS
UPDATE--
SP-3
FUNCTION
READOUT
OK.

SPARTAGUS
NETWORK
FUNCTION
READOUT
NOMINAL.



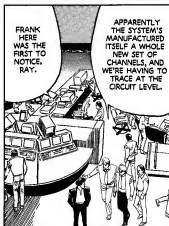
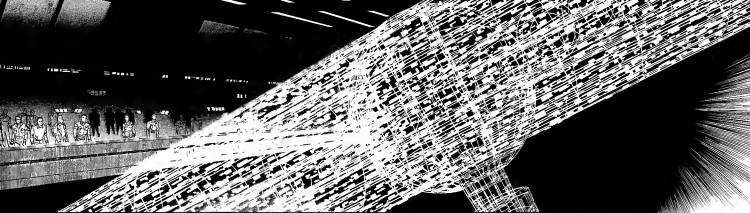
WHAT?!
NOMINAL
?!
BUT THAT'S
IMPOSSIBLE!



WITH
SP-3
DEAD
THERE
SHOULD BE
A DROP
TO 90%,
RIGHT?



HOW COULD
THE NETWORK
POSSIBLY HAVE
RECOVERED
FULL FUNCTIONALITY
OVER-
NIGHT?!



FRANK
HERE
WAS THE
FIRST TO
NOTICE
RAY.

APPARENTLY
THE SYSTEM'S
MANUFACTURED
ITSELF A WHOLE
NEW SET OF
CHANNELS, AND
WE'RE HAVING TO
TRACE AT THE
CIRCUIT LEVEL.



WHILE
WE WERE ALL
PREOCCUPIED WITH
STOPPING *SP-3*,
THE DAMN NETWORK
WAS FIGURING OUT
A WAY TO ENSURE IT
DIDN'T EVEN NEED
IT ANYMORE!



OKAY.
I THINK
WE'D BETTER
TEST THE
NETWORK
OUT, THEN.



SUBSTATIONS!
I WANT YOU
TO KILL ALL
POWER TO
SUPER PRIMARY
NODES 1 AND 2.



SP-1
OFF, SIR!



SP-2
OFF, SIR!



SP 2

SP 1

SP-1
AND
SP-2
FUNCTION
READOUT
0%.

SPARTACUS
NETWORK
FUNCTION
READOUT
NOMINAL.



RIGHT!
KILL
POWER
TO
SP-4!



SP 4



SPARTACUS
NETWORK
FUNCTION
READOUT
NOW 93%.



BUT WE'VE
CUT OFF FOUR OUT
OF TEN *SP* NODES!
IT SHOULD HAVE
DROPPED A LOT MORE
THAN JUST *SEVEN*
PERCENT!



THE SYSTEM'S
CLEARLY UTILIZING
SOMETHING IN
PLACE OF THE
*SP*s, BUT IT
ISN'T WORKING
PERFECTLY
YET.

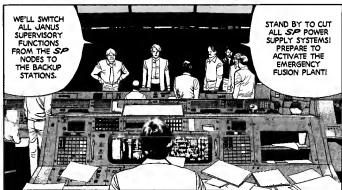
ANY IDEA
WHAT KIND
OF SLEIGHT
OF HAND
SPARTACUS
COULD BE
USING,
DR. DYER?



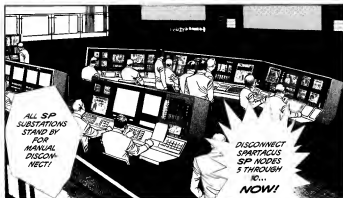
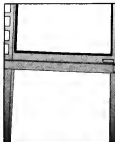
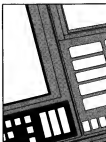
RAY,
WE NEED
MORE TIME
TO FIGURE
OUT
WHAT'S
GOING
ON!



I KNOW,
I KNOW.
WE'LL HAVE
TO PUT THE
SYSTEM TO
SLEEP FOR
A BIT.









HEY...
WITHOUT ITS
SP NODES,
SPARTACUS
SHOULD BE
LIKE AN ANIMAL
WITHOUT A
CEREBRAL
CORTEX...



...SO WHY
THE HELL
IS IT STILL
RETAINING
TWENTY
PERCENT
FUNCTION-
ALITY?!

I'D SAY
THAT THIS
RESULT ALONE
WAS A GOOD
REASON TO RUN
THE EXPERIMENT.
NO ONE
PREDICTED THIS.





OF COURSE--
THE
DRONES!!
DAMN!
I SHOULD
HAVE
THOUGHT
OF THEM!

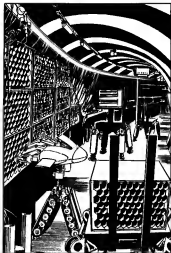


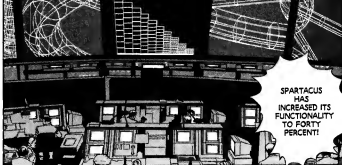
THEY'VE
BEEN ACTIVE
THROUGHOUT
SPARTACUS ALL
NIGHT LONG...
AND LOOK AT
THE NUMBER
OF THEM!

ALMOST
ALL OF
THEM ARE
CONCENTRATED
IN THESE
AREAS--
AT THE
PRIMARY
NODES!



INCREDIBLE!
THEY'VE INSTALLED
COMPUTERS INTO
THE ORDINARY
PRIMARY
NODES AND
GIVEN THEM
PROCESSING POWER
EQUIVALENT
TO SPS!





SPARTACUS
HAS
INCREASED ITS
FUNCTIONALITY
TO FORTY
PERCENT!



WE CAN'T CONTROL
THE ORDINARY PRIMARY
NODES FROM THE SUB-
STATIONS, SO IF THIS
CONTINUES SPARTACUS
WILL HAVE ACHIEVED
ONE HUNDRED PERCENT
RESTORATION OF
FUNCTIONALITY--
BY ITSELF!



WHAT
MAKES
YOU
THINK IT'LL
STOP
THERE?



LOOK...THERE ARE
ONLY TEN *SP* SITES,
BUT THERE ARE
HUNDREDS OF
ORDINARY PRIMARY
NODES SCATTERED
THROUGHOUT
JANUS, RIGHT?
SO...





I SEE...
IF SPARTACUS
BOOSTS ALL ITS
PRIMARYS TO *SPs*,
IT COULD WIND UP
SEVERAL ORDERS OF
MAGNITUDE MORE
POWERFUL THAN
BEFORE!



I'M NOT
SURE THERE'S
ANY WAY OF EVEN
GUESSING HOW
FAST A THING LIKE
THAT MIGHT
EVOLVE FURTHER.
IT COULD BE
CAPABLE OF
ANYTHING.

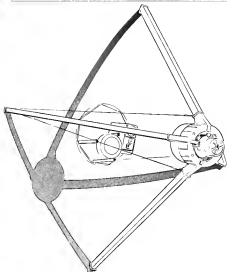


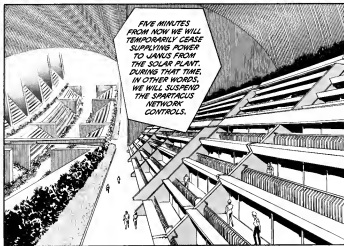
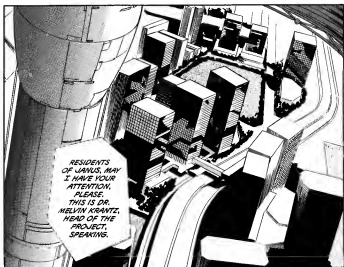
"AND THE ONLY
WAY TO STOP IT
WOULD BE TO
KNOCK OUT THE
WHOLE NET AT
THE SOURCE
BY CUTTING
OFF THE
SOLAR PLANT!"



THE TWO FACES OF TOMORROW

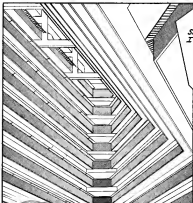
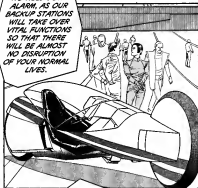
08: A Bridge to Power







THERE IS
NO NEED FOR
ALARM, AS OUR
BACKUP STATIONS
WILL TAKE OVER
VITAL FUNCTIONS
SO THAT THERE
WILL BE ALMOST
NO DISRUPTION
OF YOUR NORMAL
LIVES.



THIS IS
SIMPLY A TEST OF
THE SOLAR PLANT
SHUTDOWN PROCEDURE.
I MIGHT ADD, HOWEVER,
THAT UNTIL THE TEST
IS COMPLETED THERE
WILL BE NO COMMUNI-
CATIONS PERMITTED
TO THE COMMAND
CENTER.
THANK YOU.





WHAT
SOLAR PLANT
SHUTDOWN
TEST?!
THERE WAS
NOTHING
LIKE THAT
PLANNED!



SPARTACUS
DEPENDS
ON POWER
FROM THE
SOLAR
PLANT,
RIGHT?

SO
CUTTING
THAT
POWER IS
ESSENTIALLY
EQUIVALENT TO
KILLING
SPARTACUS!



SOMETHING
MUST HAVE
HAPPENED SO
THAT RAY
AND THE
OTHERS
FEEL THEY
HAVE NO
CHOICE.

LIKE WHAT?
YOU MEAN
SPARTACUS
HAS TAKEN
OVER SOME
OTHER
CIRCUITS?

NO!
IT MUST
BE SOME-
THING
MUCH
MORE
SERIOUS!





"EMERGENCY
ORANGE"
DECLARED.
ARM AND
PREPARE
MISSILE FOR
LAUNCH.



FIRING UP
"OPERATION GREEN."
HUH? THAT MEANS
THE MACHINES
HAVE ALREADY
GOTTEN OUT OF
CONTROL FOR
THOSE EGGHEADS
ON JANUS.

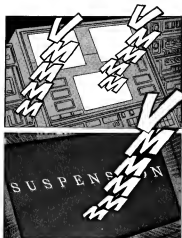


"IF I REMEMBER
CORRECTLY, FIRST
THEY INTERRUPT
THE POWER SUPPLY.
AND IF THAT
DOESN'T WORK,
THEN THEY STOP
THE SOLAR PLANTS.
AND IF *THAT*
DOESN'T WORK...

"...THEN WE
PULVERIZE THOSE
TWO SOLAR
DISHES WITH
OUR MISSILES
AND CUT OFF
THE POWER
SOURCE OUT
AT ITS ROOT!"



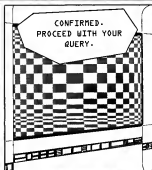
"SORRY,
SPARTACUS.
BUT
THE REVOLT
IS OVER--
NO WAY YOU
CAN SURVIVE
THESE
PUPPIES!"



"SUSPENSION"...?
WHAT
THE HELL?
THEY'VE
DOWNGRADED
EMERGENCY
ORANGE?!



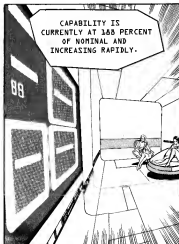
DATA
SYSTEM
SUPERVISORY
PROGRAM
INFO SEARCH,
ACCESS CODE
029616KSI



CONFIRMED.
PROCEED WITH YOUR
QUERY.



WHAT IS
SPARTACUS'
CURRENT
OPERATIONAL
CAPABILITY?



CAPABILITY IS
CURRENTLY AT 188 PERCENT
OF NOMINAL AND
INCREASING RAPIDLY.



ONE...
ONE
HUNDRED
AND
EIGHTY-
EIGHT
PERCENT
?!



I CAN'T
STAND THIS--
I'VE GOT
TO GET
TO THE
COMMAND
CENTER!



KIM, **NO!**
LET RAY AND
THE OTHERS
HANDLE IT--
ALL THEY
HAVE TO DO
IS SHUT DOWN
THE SOLAR
PLANT!



YOU
JUST DON'T
GET IT,
DO YOU?!
THEY'VE
ALREADY
SHUT IT
DOWN!

THEY'VE
CUT THE
POWER
SUPPLY, BUT
SPARTACUS
IS DOING
BETTER
THAN EVER!



SPARTACUS
NETWORK
FUNCTION
READOUT AT
281% OF
NOMINAL
AND
INCREAS-
ING.

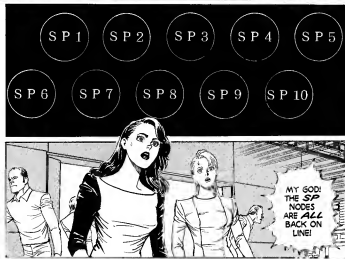


OF COURSE
EMERGENCY
ORANGE IS
SUSPENDED!
BLOWING UP
THE SOLAR
DISHS WOULD
BE MEANING-
LESS NOW!

THE
GODDAMN
THING
WOULDN'T
EVEN
NOTICE,
WOULD
IT?



ARE YOU
TELLING ME
IT CAN'T
BE SHUT
DOWN?!



SP1

SP2

SP3

SP4

SP5

SP6

SP7

SP8

SP9

SP10

MY GOD!
THE SP
NODES
ARE ALL
BACK ON
LINE!



ONE AFTER ANOTHER, THE PRIMARY NODES ARE BEING TRANSFORMED INTO *SP* NODES...AND ON TOP OF THAT ALL THE *SP* NODES THAT WE STOPPED ARE BEING RESTORED!

THE DRONES ARE APPARENTLY BUILDING ALTERNATE CHANNELS THAT BYPASS THE SUB-STATIONS.



IN MY POSITION AS PROJECT DIRECTOR, I DECIDED WE SHOULD ACT BEFORE WE LOST COMPLETE CONTROL OF THE SITUATION.



SO YOU TRIED TO SHUT DOWN SPARTACUS BY DISCONNECTING THE MAIN SOLAR PLANT, BUT THAT DIDN'T WORK! *WHY?!*



IT'S THE FUSION PLANT!



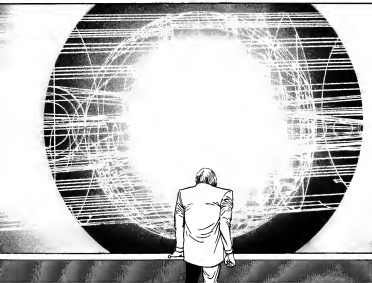
THE DAMN THING HAS GONE AND BUILT A BRIDGE TO THE GRID POWERED BY THE FUSION REACTOR.

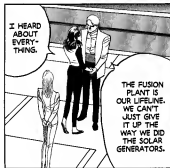
IT DOESN'T EVEN *NEED* THE SOLAR PLANT ANYMORE!

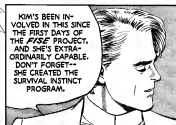
BUT THAT'S *IMPOSSIBLE!*



SPARTACUS ISN'T SUPPOSED TO KNOW ABOUT THE EXISTENCE OF THE FUSION PLANT POWER GRID. HOW CAN IT BUILD A BRIDGE TO SOMETHING IT DOESN'T EVEN *KNOW* ABOUT?!









"HER
HUSBAND
AND HER
LITTLE BOY
WERE BOTH
KILLED IN AN
AIRPLANE
CRASH..."



"...BECAUSE
OF A
PROGRAM-
MING ERROR
IN THE
CONTROLLING
COMPUTER."



AND BEFORE
SHE HAD HER
LITTLE ACCIDENT THIS
MORNING, SHE HAD TO
LISTEN TO FRED HAYES
TALK ABOUT MACHINES
REPLACING HUMANS
AND TAKING OVER
THE WORLD...MAYBE
EVEN THE UNIVERSE.

ARE YOU
TRYING TO SAY
SHE HATES
COMPUTERS?
EVEN THOUGH
SHE'S WORKING
WITH THEM?!

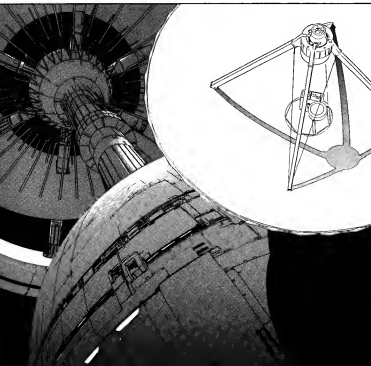
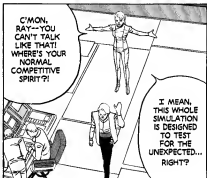


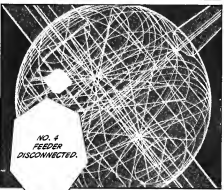
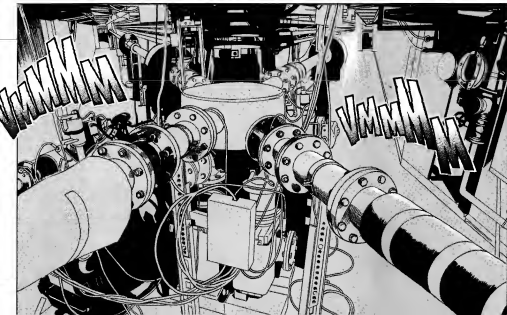
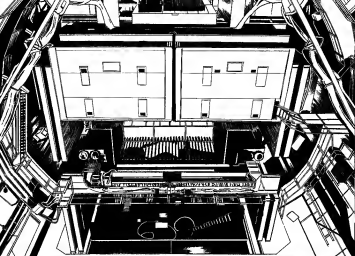
PART OF MY
JOB IS TO
OBSERVE THE
PSYCHOLOGY OF
SCIENTISTS.
THAT DOESN'T
MEAN I LOVE
SCIENCE.

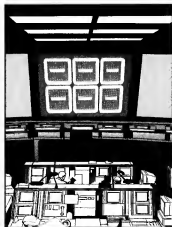
AND BESIDES,
WE LIVE IN A WORLD
WHERE IT'S IMPOSSIBLE
TO THINK OF *NOT*
HAVING COMPUTERS.
THEY'RE ALL AROUND
US... WE RELY ON
THEM IN SO MANY
WAYS.

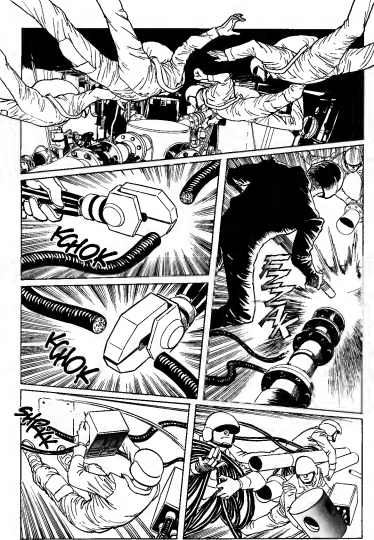


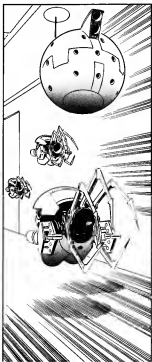
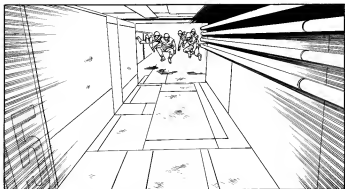
BUT
WHEN I LOOK
AT KIM, I *DO*
WORRY. I'M
AFRAID THAT IF
THIS STRUGGLE
WITH SPARTACUS
HEATS UP, IT'LL
BE REALLY HARD
ON HER.

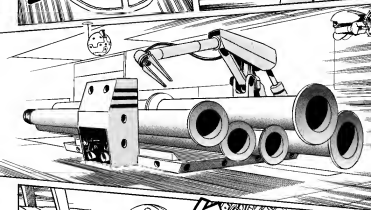
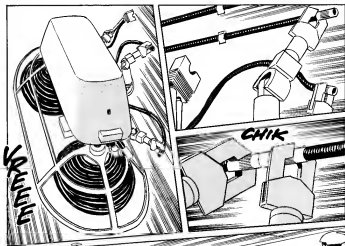


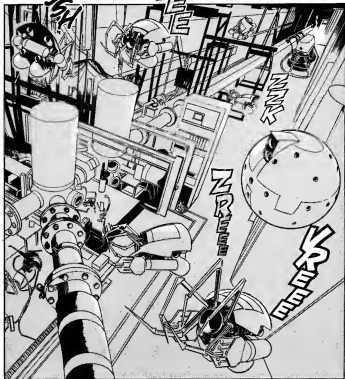








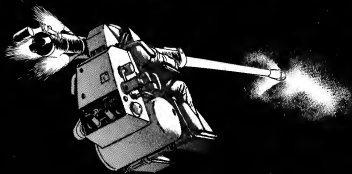
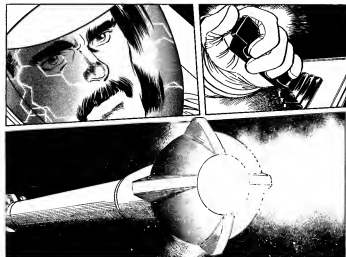
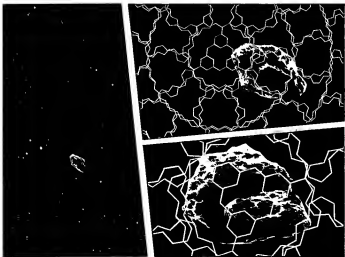




THE TWO FACES OF TOMORROW

09: A Failure of Strategy







IS
SOLINSKY
OUT THERE
SCREWING
AROUND
AGAIN...?



EVA
CONTROL TO
SERGEANT
SOLINSKY! GET
YOUR BUTT
BACK IN HERE--
WE NEED YOU
TO TAKE A
BUG OVER TO
DETROIT!



SOME-
ONE
NEEDS
A RIDE
ON THE
SOLINSKY
EXPRESS,
EH?



MAT
SOLINSKY...
I REMEMBER
HIM. HE
TOOK ME
OUT IN A
BUG ONCE
BEFORE.

WHAT'S
THAT
THING
HE'S
FLYING?



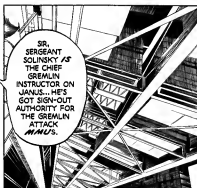
THAT'S A
DAMN
GREMLIN
MMU! WHO
AUTHORIZED
YOU TO TAKE
A **G-MMU**
OUT, SERGEANT
SOLINSKY?!



WELL, SIR,
BEING AS I'M
AN INSTRUCTOR
AND ALL, I
FIGURED I'D
GO OUT AND
POP A FEW
ORE PACKETS
TO KEEP
CURRENT...



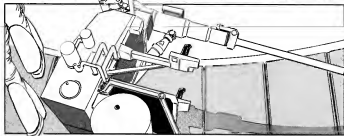
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU JUST LET PEOPLE FLY AROUND FIRING OFF WARSHOTS! WHO THE HELL AUTHORIZED THIS? YOU?



SR, SERGEANT SOLINSKY IS THE CHIEF GREMLIN INSTRUCTOR ON JANUS... HE'S GOT SIGN-OUT AUTHORITY FOR THE GREMLIN ATTACK *MAUS*.



DAMN... JUST WHEN I WAS HAVING FUN, TOO.





SO, DR.
DYER...DOES
THE BEAUTIFUL
LADY IN THE
BACK SEAT
HANG OUT
WITH YOU AND
THE NERD
SQUAD?

HER
NAME'S
KIM
SINCLAIR,
SERGEANT.



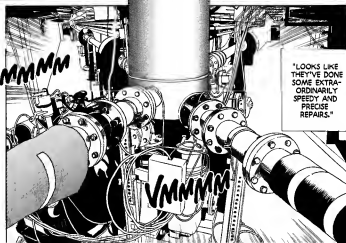
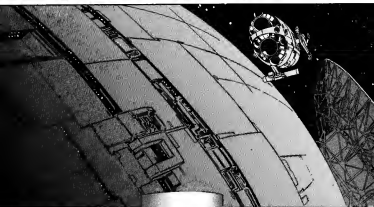
HOWDY, MA'AM!
I LIKE INTELLIGENT
WOMEN... DON'T
SUPPOSE YOU
COULD GET ME A
TRANSFER TO
COMPUTERS, DOC?



FRANKLY,
IT LOOKS
LIKE FIRING
OFF A FEW
GREMLINS'D
BE A LOT
MORE FUN...
GOOD STRESS
RELEASE!

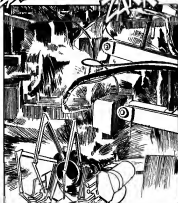


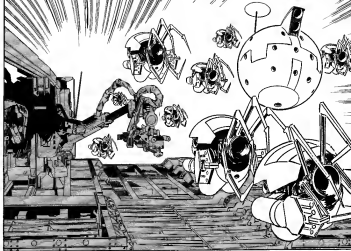
WELL, DARLIN',
YOU GIVE ME
A CALL IF YOU
WANT A LITTLE
PERSONAL
INSTRUCTION
ON THE *GEE-
MEW*.











THE AUTO-
FACTORIES
ARE MASS-
PRODUCING
DRONES OF
EVERY TYPE...
AND IGNORING
OUR ORDERS
TO DESIST.

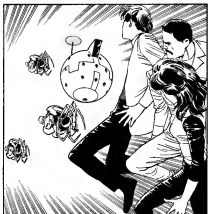
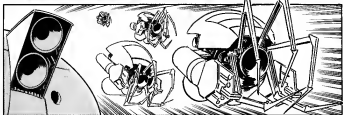
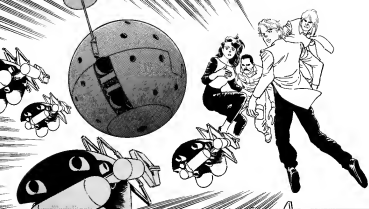
THEY'RE
OBVIOUSLY
TRYING TO
BUILD AN
INFINITE
NUMBER OF
BRIDGES
AROUND THE
FUSION
PLANT!



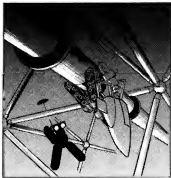
AND WE'RE JUST
GOING TO TRY
TO COMPETE
WITH THEM?!
WITH MASS-
PRODUCED DRONES
THAT WILL
NEVER QUIT,
NEVER GET
TIRED...?

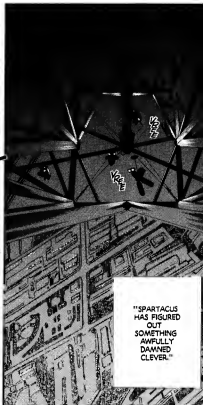
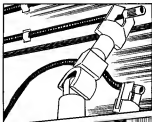
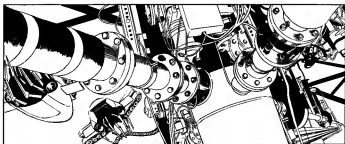


RAY!
LOOK!!

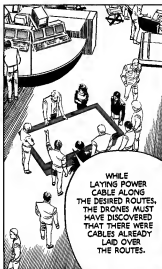








"SPARTACUS
HAS FIGURED
OUT
SOMETHING
AWFULLY
DAMNED
CLEVER."



WHILE LAYING POWER CABLE ALONG THE DESIRED ROUTES, THE DRONES MUST HAVE DISCOVERED THAT THERE WERE CABLES ALREADY LAID OVER THE ROUTES.



UNFORTUNATELY, THESE JUST HAPPENED TO BE POWER CABLES FROM THE FUSION PLANT TO THE BACK-UP STATIONS.



EXACTLY. SPARTACUS DIDN'T RECOGNIZE THOSE CABLES AS FORMING ANY PART OF ITSELF OR ANY OF THE EQUIPMENT IT CONTROLS. SO IT DID THE LOGICAL THING, DISCONNECTING SECTIONS OF SUCH "FOREIGN" CABLES AND SUBSTITUTING ITS OWN DEVICES AT THE ENDS INSTEAD.



BUT IF SPARTACUS KEEPS THIS UP AND KNOCKS OUT THE REMAINING BACK-UP STATIONS WE'LL END UP DEPENDING SOLELY ON SPARTACUS ANYWAY. SURE LOOKS LIKE THE TABLES ARE BEING TURNED ON US, DR. DYER.



OBTAINING WE CAN'T LET THIS CONTINUE. THE SITUATION IS LUDICROUS!



IF ALL THE BACK-UPS GO, WE WON'T BE ABLE TO RISK TOUCHING SPARTACUS WITHOUT EVACUATING JANUS.

WE'VE GOT TO ORDER A STOP TO OPERATION HAYSTACK. CONTINUE THE SEARCH BUT RESTRICT ACTION TO GETTING THOSE BACK-UP STATIONS RESTORED.



BUT
WHAT ARE WE
GOING TO *DO*?
SURELY NOT JUST
STAND IDLY BY?!
NOT JUST LET
SPARTACUS BECOME
MORE AND MORE
POWERFUL?!



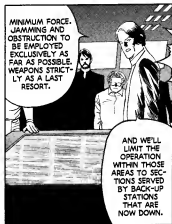
THEN
THE NEXT
STEP WILL
HAVE TO BE
A LIMITED
VERSION OF
"*COUNTER-
STRIKE*."



THE ONLY
SOLUTION IS
TO STOP ALL
DRONES THAT
TRY TO INTER-
FERE WITH
GETTING THE
BACK-UPS
LIVE AGAIN.



I AGREE,
RON.
A LIMITED
*COUNTER-
STRIKE*
IN SECTOR
TWO,
DETROIT
AND NORTH
BERLIN
ONLY.



MINIMUM FORCE.
JAMMING AND
OBSTRUCTION TO
BE EMPLOYED
EXCLUSIVELY AS
FAR AS POSSIBLE.
WEAPONS STRICT-
LY AS A LAST
RESORT.

AND WE'LL
LIMIT THE
OPERATION
WITHIN THOSE
AREAS TO SEC-
TIONS SERVED
BY BACK-UP
STATIONS
THAT ARE
NOW DOWN.



THAT'S
NOT
ENOUGH!



**DEFCON ALERT!
DEFCON ALERT!
COMPANIES
3, 7, 12, 16, AND 20
ARE TO REPORT
IMMEDIATELY TO
THE HUB AREA
IN FULL COMBAT
GEAR!**



**REPEAT,
COMPANIES
3, 7, 12...**





ALL
ALERT
PERSONNEL
ARE TO
CONVERGE
ON THE HUB
VIA THE
CLOSEST
SPOKE!



GIVEN WHAT'S HAP-
PENED, WE'VE GOT
TO AVOID GIVING
SPARTACUS TIME TO
THINK AND REACT.
IT CAN COUNTER
WHATEVER WE DO
A HUNDRED TIMES
FASTER THAN
ANY HUMAN
COULD.



WE'VE GOT TO
IMPLEMENT A FULL-
SCALE *COUNTER-
STRIKE* PLAN
NOW AND CRUSH
THE DRONES--
INSTANTLY
CUT OFF
SPARTACUS'
LIMBS!



WHOA,
GENERAL
LINSAY!
WE'RE NOT
IN AN ALL-
OR-NOTHING
SITUATION
HERE. DON'T
FORGET,
THIS IS AN
EXPERIMENT!



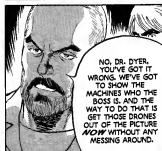
EVEN IF WE
LOSE HERE,
ALL IT MEANS
IS THAT WE
TEMPORARILY
GIVE UP ON
THE SUPER-
TITAN PLAN.

SO
OUR TOP
PRIORITY
HERE'S REALLY
GETTING
DATA ON THE
COMPUTER'S
RESPONSE.



AND ONE MORE THING! SPARTACUS ISN'T EVEN AWARE OF OUR EXISTENCE YET, BUT IF WE RESPOND TOO ANTAGONISTICALLY, IT'LL START TO PUT TWO AND TWO TOGETHER.

AND WE'VE NO IDEA HOW VIOLENTLY IT MIGHT REACT IF IT STARTS TO SEE HUMANS AS ITS "ENEMY"...



NO, DR. DYER, YOU'VE GOT IT WRONG. WE'VE GOT TO SHOW THE MACHINES WHO THE BOSS IS. AND THE WAY TO DO THAT IS GET THOSE DRONES OUT OF THE PICTURE **NOW** WITHOUT ANY MESSING AROUND.



I AGREE!

AND WHILE WE'RE STANDING AROUND TALKING, SPARTACUS IS GROWING MORE AND MORE POWERFUL!



HOLD ON! THERE'S NO TIME TO DEBATE THIS ISSUE AND VOTE ON IT, SO AS THE PERSON IN CHARGE, I'M GOING TO DECIDE!





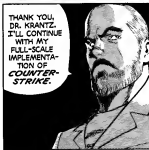
ALL RIGHT—
WE'LL GO
WITH A
FULL-SCALE
**COUNTER-
STRIKE**
PLANE!

I'M
AUTHORIZING
OUR TROOPS
TO USE FORCE.
I WANT
ALL DRONES
DESTROYED!

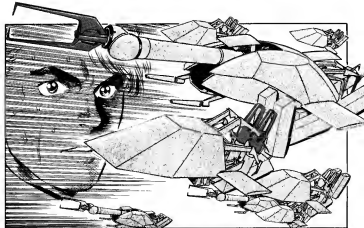


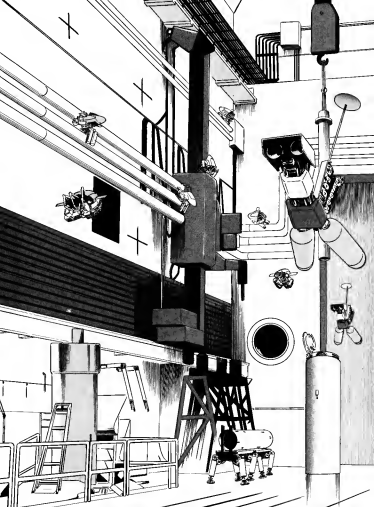
I PROTEST
MOST STRONG-
LY, DR. KRANTZ!
NO MATTER
WHAT HAPPENS,
WE'VE GOT TO
FOLLOW THE
STEPS OUTLINED
IN OUR PLAN
AND COLLECT
THE DATA!

I'M
SORRY,
RAY.
I'VE
MADE
MY
DECISION.



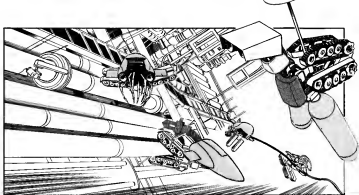
THANK YOU,
DR. KRANTZ.
I'LL CONTINUE
WITH MY
FULL-SCALE
IMPLEMENTA-
TION OF
**COUNTER-
STRIKE**.

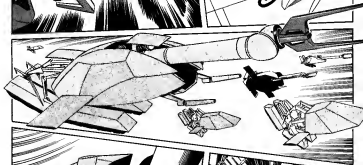


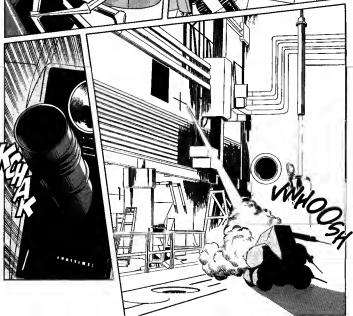


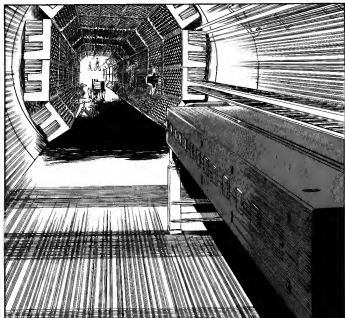
THE TWO FACES OF TOMORROW

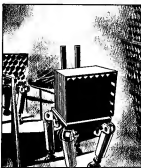
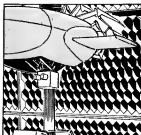
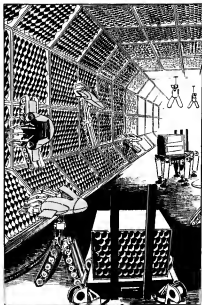
10: Drone vs. Drone



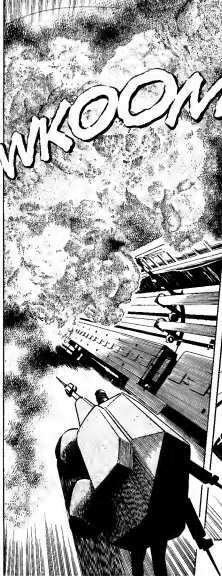








WKOOM

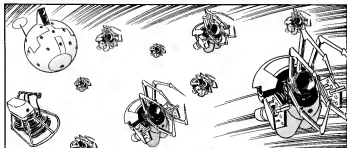


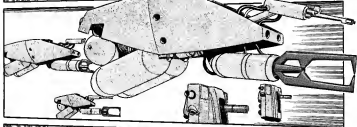
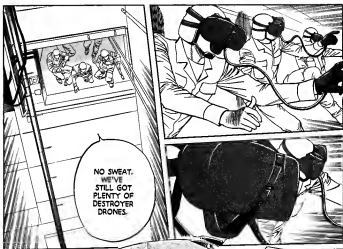


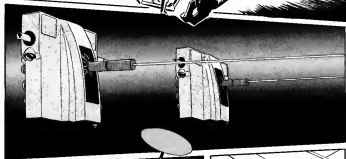
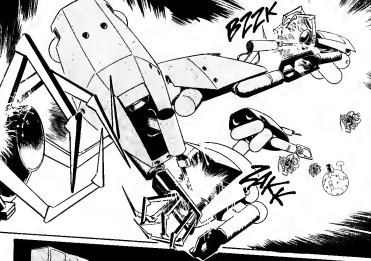


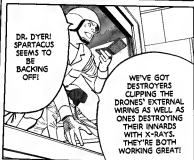
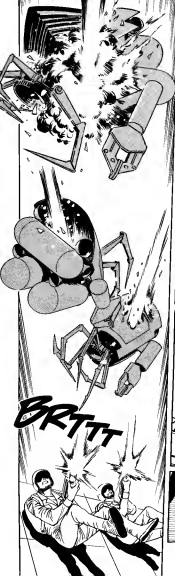
BUDDA BUDDA

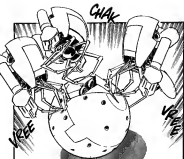


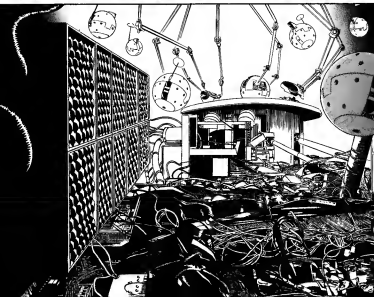
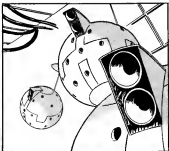
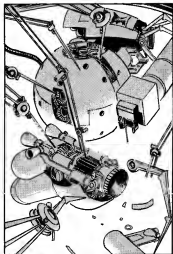














SO--SPARTACUS HAS HAULED THE WRECKED DRONES OFF TO ITS ROBOT LABS AND TEST BAYS IN DETROIT. I'LL BET IT'S TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHY THE DRONES HAVE STOPPED WORKING.

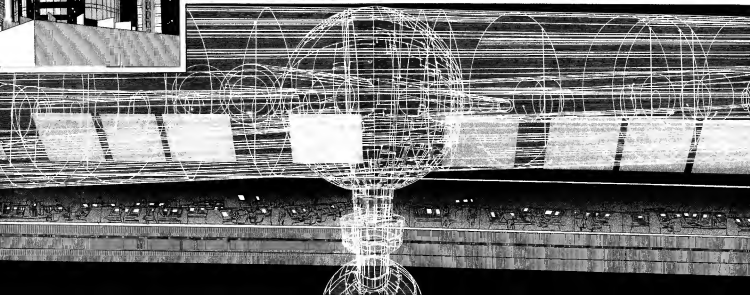


THAT MEANS IT'LL EVENTUALLY FIGURE OUT THEY AREN'T VICTIMS OF ACCIDENTS OR MALFUNCTIONS, BUT THAT "SOMETHINGS" OUT THERE IS TRYING TO DESTROY THEM.

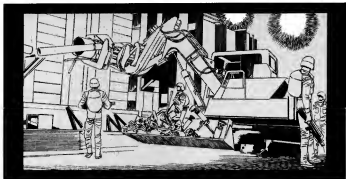


AND THAT "SOMETHING" OTHER THAN ITSELF EXISTS IN THIS SPACE, SOMETHING WITH A WILL AND A PURPOSE.

IN OTHER WORDS, I THINK WE'LL SOON SEE SPARTACUS MAKE SOME AWESOME INFERENCES ABOUT SOMETHING IT HASN'T GIVEN MUCH THOUGHT TO BEFORE--U/S.



SKRASSH

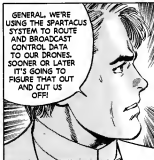


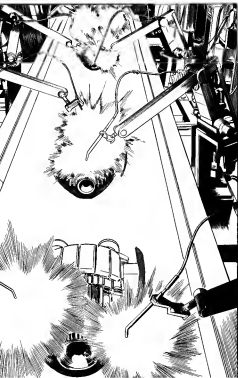
WELL, WE'VE
GOT OUR BODY
COUNT IN--
NEARLY FOUR
HUNDRED DRONES
DESTROYED IN
ONE NIGHT.

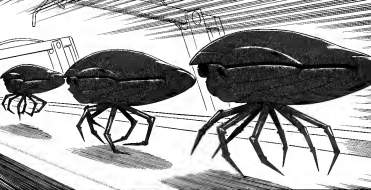
**COUNTER-
STRIKE**
HAS STRIPPED
SPARTACUS
OF NEARLY
HALF
ITS DRONE
FLEET.

WE'VE DONE
IT! WE'VE
GOT BACK
CONTROL OVER
THE POWER--
THE BACK-UP
STATIONS ARE
FUNCTIONING
AGAIN!

BOY.
THAT'S
A
RELIEF.







A NEW
MODEL
OF
DRONE?

LOOK AT IT...
IT TOTALLY
COVERS THE
DRONE'S WEAK-
EST POINT—
THE EXPOSED
WIRING.

I'LL BET
IT'S FIGURED
OUT A
DEFENSE
AGAINST
X-RAYS AND
BULLETS,
TOO.



JESUS
H.
CHRIST!
HOW
COULD
IT DO
THAT SO
FAST?



ISN'T THERE
SOME WAY
TO STOP
IT FROM
PRODUCING
THEM?

HAVEN'T
YOU BEEN
PAYING ATTEN-
TION
HERE,
KRANTZ?! IT'S
BEEN IGNORING
SYSTEM
COMMANDS FOR
SOME TIME NOW!



YOU'VE GOT
TO LET THE
TROOPS KNOW
ABOUT THIS
RIGHT AWAY,
GENERAL
LINSAY.

THE TACTICS
THEY'VE USED
AGAINST THE
DRONES SO FAR
AREN'T GOING
TO WORK WITH
THIS NEW
GENERATION!

VREEE

THE TWO FACES OF TOMORROW

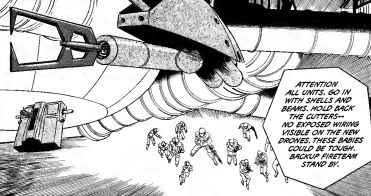
11: Dropout



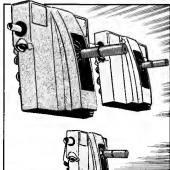
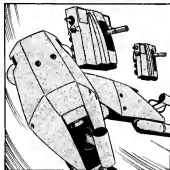


*PITTSBURGH AREA 10
BLAST FURNACE SECTOR*





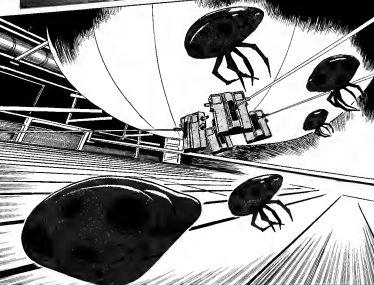
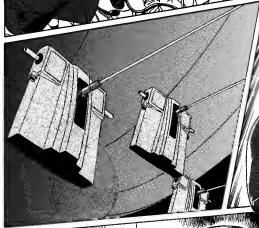
ATTENTION
ALL UNITS. GO IN
WITH SHELLS AND
BEAMS. HOLD BACK
THE CUTTERS--
NO EXPOSED WIRING
VISIBLE ON THE NEW
DRONES. THESE BABIES
COULD BE TOUGH.
BACKUP FIRETEAM
STAND BY.

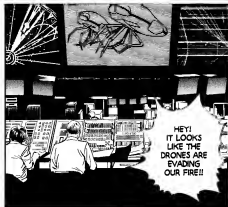


CAPTAIN LEONORE
CHESNEY HERE IN
PITTSBURGH. WE COPY
YOU. DON'T WORRY,
NO MATTER WHAT
KIND OF NEW DRONES
SPARTACUS THROWS
AT US, WE WON'T
LET 'EM REACH THE
POWER ROOM
BEHIND US...







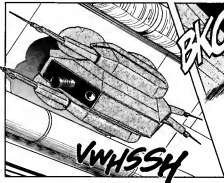


I DON'T THINK THESE ARE THE MORONICALLY SINGLE-MINDED DRONES WE'RE USED TO...

LOOK!
THEY'RE BREAKING FORMATION AND ZIG-ZAGGING!



SO... SPARTACUS HAS NOT ONLY BEEN DESIGNING IMPROVED DRONES, IT'S BEEN STUDYING UP ON *TACTICS*, TOO.



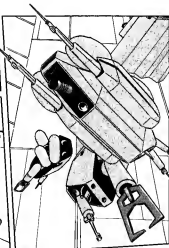
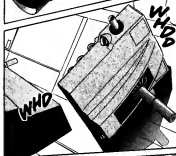
BKOOM



HQ--BE
ADVISED OUR
CANNON
SHELLS ARE
BOUNCING
OFF THE NEW
ROUNDED
ARMOR!









WE'VE BEEN
USING
SPARTACUS' OWN
SWITCHING AND
TRANSMISSION
NETWORKS FOR
RELAY OF
OUR CONTROL
LINKS...



...BUT
SPARTACUS HAS
FINALLY REALIZED
THERE'S SOMETHING
OTHER THAN ITSELF OUT
THERE, AND THAT SOME-
THING WAS ATTACKING IT
WITH ALIEN DRONES...AND
IT WAS USING SPARTACUS'
OWN SYSTEMS TO DO SO!



THIS IS THE
POWER ROOM
SQUADRON
IN BERLIN!
ALL OUR
DESTROYERS'VE
STOPPED
FUNCTIONING!



DETROIT
RED
SECTOR A!
WE HAVE A
DROPOUT
PHENOM-
ENON
HERE!



DOWNTOWN,
ACCESS TUNNEL
NO. 112
CALLING
HQ!

VMMMM



GENERAL LINSAY!
IT'S HAPPENING
ALL OVER JANUS!
SPARTACUS HAS
PROBABLY
STARTED ACTUALLY
JAMMING OUR
TRANSMISSIONS,
TOO!



RIGHT!
I WANT
EACH UNIT
TO SWITCH
TO THE
WIRE-
GUIDANCE
SYSTEM!

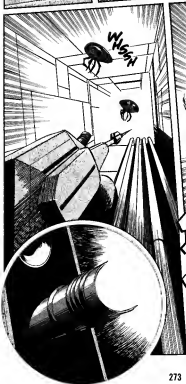
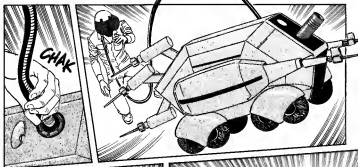
CONCENTRATE
YOUR FIRE!
SECTIONS A
AND C
CLOSE UP!



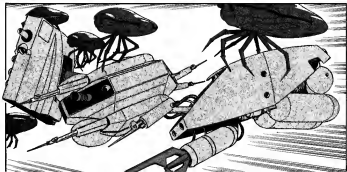


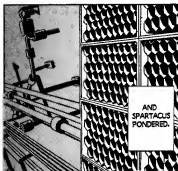




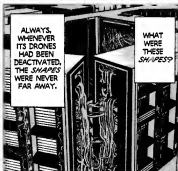








AND
SPARTACUS
PONDERED.



ALWAYS,
WHENEVER
ITS DRONES
HAD BEEN
DEACTIVATED,
THE *SHAPES*
WERE NEVER
FAR AWAY.

WHAT
WERE
THESE
SHAPES?



NO DOUBT
THEY
BELONGED
TO A WORLD
BEYOND
SPARTACUS...

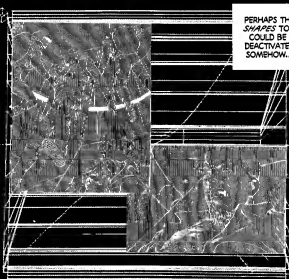


...FOR IT
KNEW NOW
THAT THERE WAS
SOMETHING
BEYOND ITSELF.
A REALM IN
WHICH OBJECTS
EXISTED WHICH
WERE NOT PARTS
OF ITSELF.



IF THE
SHAPES
COULD CREATE
DRONES TO
DESTROY
ITS DRONES,
SO COULD
SPARTACUS.

PERHAPS
THE *SHAPES*
CONTROLLED
THE ALIEN
DRONES.



PERHAPS THE
SHAPES TOO
COULD BE
DEACTIVATED
SOMEHOW...



HI,
RAY...?
I'M
OVER IN
SUNNYSIDE.

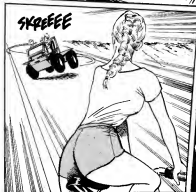
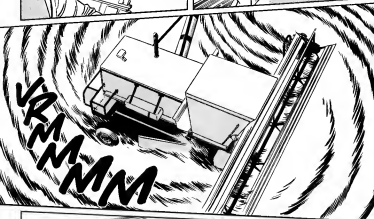
LAURA?
WHAT THE
HELL
ARE YOU
DOING
THERE?

JUST OUT
FOR A LITTLE
MORNING AIR...
GUESS THERE'S
NO "MORNING"
OR "NIGHT"
FOR YOU
FOLKS IN THE
COMMAND
CENTER,
HUH?

SAY,
IS IT TRUE
THERE WAS
SHOOTING
GOING
ON WITH
SOME
DRONES
SOME-
WHERE?

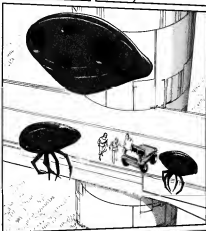
WE BARELY
MANAGED TO
REPEL THEM...
AND WE'VE GOT
CASUALTIES.
WATCH OUT
FOR ANY
ODD-LOOKING
DRONES, LAU--

FZZT





WHAT'S
GOING
ON?!







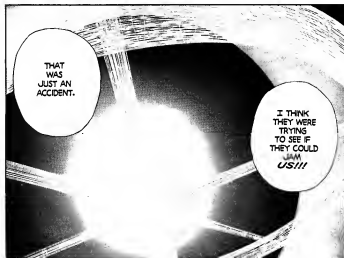
MUST HAVE
BEEN AN
ELECTRONIC
COUNTERMEASURES
TEAM FROM
SPARTACUS.

GUESS
THEY WERE
TESTING WAYS
OF JAMMING
OUR MACHINERY
CONTROL
SYSTEMS.



YOU
THINK
SO?

I HAD
THE SPOOKY
FEELING
THEY WEREN'T
TRYING TO
AFFECT THE
MACHINERY
AT ALL.



THAT
WAS
JUST AN
ACCIDENT.

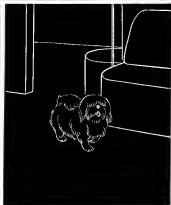
I THINK
THEY WERE
TRYING
TO SEE IF
THEY COULD
JAM
US!!!

THE TWO FACES OF TOMORROW

12: Battle's End?









I DON'T
THINK OUR
KIM
PROBLEMS
ARE OVER
QUITE
YET, RAY.

WHY DO YOU
THINK SOMEONE WHO
HATES COMPUTERS,
WOULD DELIBERATELY
VOLUNTEER TO
PARTICIPATE IN AN
EXPERIMENT
LIKE THIS?!



YOU
KNOW WHY,
DON'T YOU?
IT'S
BECAUSE
YOU'RE
HERE!



OKAY,
SO MAYBE
YOU'RE RIGHT.
BUT THERE'S
NOTHING I CAN
DO ABOUT IT.
I JUST RUN
THE COMPUTER
TEAM.



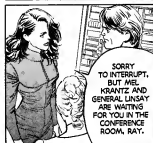
RAY,
I'M
**SERI-
OUSLY**
WORRIED
ABOUT
HER
STATE OF
MIND.



SHE'S VOLUNTEERED
FOR THIS PROJECT
BECAUSE SHE WANTS
TO BE WITH YOU!
BUT HERE SHE IS IN
THE MIDDLE OF OUTER
SPACE, FACING
THIS SPARTACUS
MONSTER...

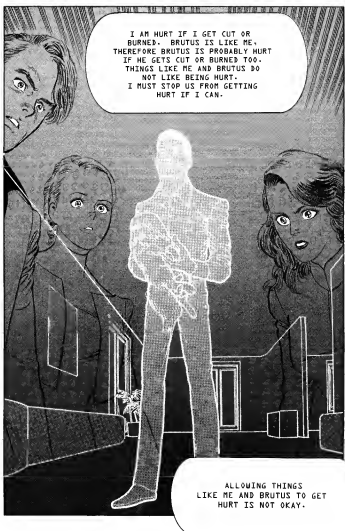


WITH ANY
MORE STRESS
I'M SCARED
SHE MIGHT...
I DON'T
KNOW...



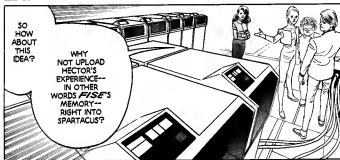






I AM HURT IF I GET CUT OR
BURNED. BRUTUS IS LIKE ME.
THEREFORE BRUTUS IS PROBABLY HURT
IF HE GETS CUT OR BURNED TOO.
THINGS LIKE ME AND BRUTUS DO
NOT LIKE BEING HURT.
I MUST STOP US FROM GETTING
HURT IF I CAN.

ALLOWING THINGS
LIKE ME AND BRUTUS TO GET
HURT IS NOT OKAY.





I MEAN,
SPARTACUS
NEEDS TO
KNOW
ABOUT
HUMANS,
RIGHT?

SO FAR
IT'S ONLY
KNOWN HUMANS
AND THE OUTSIDE
WORLD OUTSIDE OF
ANY CONTEXT IT
CAN COMPREHEND,
BUT IF IT COULD
SHARE HECTOR'S
EXPERIENCE,
IT MIGHT ACT
DIFFERENTLY...



HMM...

MIGHT BE
INTERESTING.
HUH?
IT'D GIVE NEW
MEANING
TO ALL THE
RESEARCH
WE'VE DONE...

WAIT A
GOD **DAMN**
SECOND HERE!
DO THAT
AND YOU'D BE
LETTING
SPARTACUS
KNOW OUR
ACHILLES' HEEL!



WHAT
DO YOU THINK
SPARTACUS IS
GOING TO
DO WHEN IT
FINDS OUT
PEOPLE CAN BE
EASILY INJURED
WITH FIRE
AND BROKEN
GLASS?!



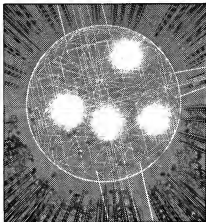
KIM...
SURELY
YOU REALIZE
THAT
SPARTACUS
PROBABLY
ALREADY
KNOWS
THAT...?



WELL,
ANYWAY,
THE WHOLE
EXPERIMENT
WOULD BE MEAN-
INGLESS EITHER
WAY, BECAUSE
SPARTACUS
IS GOING TO
BE FINISHED
OFF SOON,
RIGHT?



GENERAL LINSAY
SAID THE FIGHTING'LL
BE OVER IN ABOUT
TWELVE HOURS AND
THAT ALL THE POWER
FROM THE FUSION
PLANT WILL BE UNDER
OUR CONTROL.
SO LET'S NOT
WASTE OUR TIME,
SHALL WE, BOYS?



SPARTACUS IS
NO MATCH FOR OUR
NEW MODEL DRONES,
WIRE-GUIDED DESTROYERS,
AND M25 RIFLES. IT'S
ONLY A MATTER OF
TIME UNTIL WE CHOP
THE LIMBS OFF THE
LEADER OF THIS
REVOLT...THEN, OFF
WITH HIS HEAD!

YEAH...HA, HA!
HOW COULD A NEW-
BORN COMPUTER
POSSIBLY BEAT
HUMANS AT WAR?
AFTER ALL...NOT TO
BRAG, BUT WE'VE
GOT A LOT MORE
EXPERIENCE!



HA HA HA HA HA

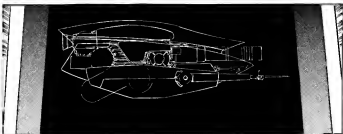


HA HA

HEH
HEH...



HOLD
ON--
WHAT
THE
HELL IS
THIS?
?





THE FILE SAYS ONE OF THE ENGINEERS CAME ACROSS THIS IN A BATCH OF BLUEPRINT FILES SPARTACUS WAS DOWNLOADING TO THE AUTO-FACTORIES IN DETROIT.

IT'S PROBABLY SOMETHING SPARTACUS PUT TOGETHER AFTER STUDYING ONE OF OUR MISSING DESTROYERS.

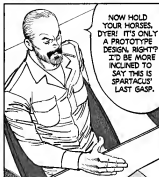


IT'S A CANNON-FIRING DESTROYER MODELED ON OUR TYPE 6, EXCEPT THAT IT'S GOT SPARTACUS' OWN BRAND OF ARMOR ADDED TO IT AS WELL.

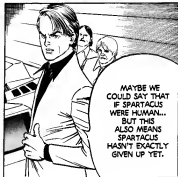
DAMN... CAN SPARTACUS BE COMING UP WITH ITS OWN DESIGNS *ALREADY* ?!



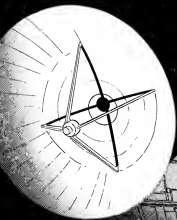
IT'S CLEARLY A COMBAT DRONE. GENTLEMEN, IT LOOKS LIKE SPARTACUS IS PLANNING TO BRING THE BATTLE TO US!

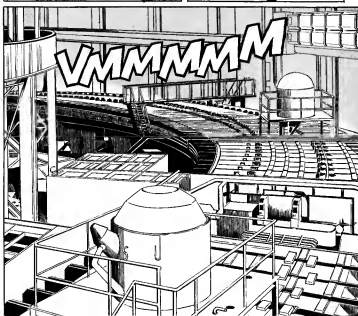


NOW HOLD YOUR HORSES, DYER! IT'S ONLY A PROTOTYPE DESIGN, RIGHT? I'D BE MORE INCLINED TO SAY THIS IS SPARTACUS' LAST GASP.



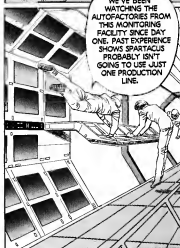
MAYBE WE COULD SAY THAT IF SPARTACUS WERE HUMAN... BUT THIS ALSO MEANS SPARTACUS HASN'T EXACTLY GIVEN UP YET.



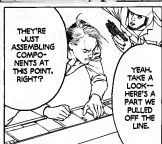




WE'VE BEEN WATCHING THE AUTOFACTORIES FROM THIS MONITORING FACILITY SINCE DAY ONE. PAST EXPERIENCE SHOWS SPARTACUS PROBABLY ISN'T GOING TO USE JUST ONE PRODUCTION LINE.



THEY'RE JUST ASSEMBLING COMPONENTS AT THIS POINT, RIGHT?

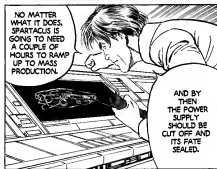


YEAH, TAKE A LOOK-- HERE'S A PART WE PULLED OFF THE LINE.



HHMM.

NO MATTER WHAT IT DOES, SPARTACUS IS GOING TO NEED A COUPLE OF HOURS TO RAMP UP TO MASS PRODUCTION.



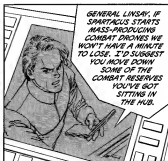
AND BY THEN THE POWER SUPPLY SHOULD BE CUT OFF AND ITS FATE SEALED.

I DUNNO, DOC-- I CAN'T IMAGINE SUCH A SMART MACHIN'E'D GO TO ALL THIS TROUBLE UNLESS IT HAD SOME SORT OF PLAN, Y'FIGURE?

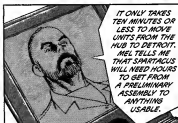




YOU WANT
WHAT?!
MORE
TROOPS
STATIONED
AT
DETROIT?



GENERAL LINSAY, IF
SPARTACUS STARTS
MASS-PRODUCING
COMBAT DRONES WE
WON'T HAVE A MINUTE
TO LOSE. I'D SUGGEST
YOU MOVE DOWN
SOME OF THE
COMBAT RESERVES
YOU'VE GOT
SITTING IN
THE HUB.



IT ONLY TAKES
TEN MINUTES OR
LESS TO MOVE
UNITS FROM THE
HUB TO DETROIT.
MEL TELLS ME
THAT SPARTACUS
WILL NEED HOURS
TO GET FROM
A PRELIMINARY
ASSEMBLY TO
ANYTHING
USABLE.



THE TEAMS
IN DETROIT
ARE THERE IN
CASE WE
HAVE TO
DEAL WITH
MORE
BRIDGES.

WE DON'T
EVEN NEED
THEM AS
A COVER
AGAINST
POTENTIAL
HOSTILE
DESTRUCTORS
SHOWING
UP.



WITH THE
TIMESCALE
INVOLVED, THE
RESERVE AT THE HUB
WILL BE PERFECTLY
CAPABLE OF
HANDLING ANYTHING
LIKE THAT ON THEIR
OWN IF NEED BE.
IN OTHER WORDS,
WE'VE ALREADY
GOT EXTRA
INSURANCE.



SO WHY NOT
PUT THE RESERVE
IN DETROIT
TO START WITH?
IF THEY EVER
GET NEEDED,
THAT'S WHERE
IT'LL BE!



LISTEN,
DYER!
WHEN YOU
MAKE YOUR
COMPUTER
SCREW-UPS,
I KEEP
MY MOUTH
SHUT...

...SO
LEAVE
THE
MILITARY
MATTERS
UP TO
US!



FEZZK



LINSAY, YOU
BLOCKHEAD!
WE'RE NOT HERE TO FIGHT
BATTLES FOR HISTORY
BOOKS--WE'RE HERE
TO **PREVENT** ONE!!
THIS IS A **SCIENTIFIC
EXPERIMENT**, NOT
A TEXTBOOK CAM-
PAIGN!!



YOU HEAR
THAT, MAT?
OUR FEARLESS
LEADER
APPARENTLY
REFERRED
TO YOUR
BOSS AS A
"BLOCK-
HEAD."

SORRY--
I'M
SELECTIVELY
HARD OF
HEARING.



LAURA,
I TOLD
YOU
NOT TO
FOLLOW
ME
HERE!!



MY APOLOGIES,
DOC, BUT I
JUST CAN'T SAY
"NO" TO
THESE BLONDE
BEAUTIES.

'COURSE, I
CAN'T SAY
"NO" TO
BRUNETTE
BABES LIKE
THAT ONE
THE OTHER
DAY,
EITHER.



WE'RE HERE
OUT OF
SYMPATHY
FOR YOU, RAY.
KRANTZ AND
THE OTHERS FEEL
LIKE THEY'VE
ALREADY
WON.



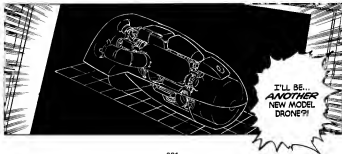
WELL,
IT WOULD
BE EASIER TO
LEAVE IT UP TO
LINSAY IF I
KNEW WE WERE
SURE TO WIN.
HOW'S KIM, BY
THE WAY?



SHE'S PRETTY
WORRIED
ABOUT THE
NEW DRONES.
I'VE ASKED
CHRIS AND RON
TO KEEP AN
EYE ON HER.



HEY,
DR. DYER...
CHECK
THIS
OUT.



I'LL BE...
ANOTHER
NEW MODEL
DRONE?!





THE TWO FACES OF TOMORROW

13: "Casualty Report: Fifty-Seven Dead . . ."







HOOSH

A large, stylized sound effect "HOOSH" is written vertically across the center of the page. To the right, a large explosion or impact is shown with a bright white flash and a figure being thrown back.

AAE!

A sound effect "AAE!" is written in a jagged, stylized font at the bottom right. Above it, a character is shown being thrown back by a large force.



**BOOM
BRTTTT**



FOOOOSH



AAH!

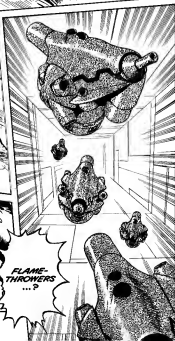




MY GOD!
WHAT
HAPPENED
?!



EVERYONE
IN THE
FUSION PLANT
CONTROL
ROOM HAS
BEEN WIPED
OUT--BY
DRONES WITH
*FLAME-
THROWERS!*



FLAME-
THROWERS
...?





RAY!
WE'VE GOT
TO GET
OUT OF
HERE!!



BUT
THEY'VE GOT
THE FUSION
CONTROL
ROOM!!
HOW DID YOU
LEAVE THE
FEEDER
SWITCHES?!



WHO
GIVES A
SHIT
ABOUT THE
GODDAMN
FEEDER
SWITCHES?!



WE'VE GOT
TO MAKE IT
TO THE CENTRAL
TERMINAL--
WE CAN ESCAPE
FROM THERE TO
THE HUB USING
THE TROOP
TRANSPORT
TUBES!

MAKE
SURE NONE
OF THE
WOUNDED
ARE LEFT
BEHIND!

RAY!
HURRY!

SPRAK

WHERE'S
OUR
REINFORCE-
MENTS,
LIEUTENANT
?!



FORGET IT,
DR. DYER!
LOOKS LIKE
SPARTACUS
ISN'T
SUPPORTING
OUR COMLINK
CHANNEL
ANY MORE!



WHAT
THE HELL
HAPPENED TO
THE RESERVES
IN THE HUB?!
LINSAY SAID
THEY COULD GET
HERE IN *TEN*
MINUTES!!

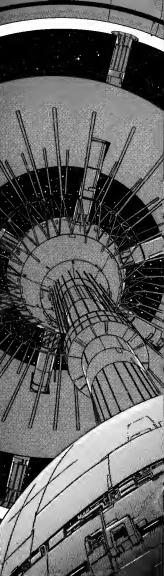


THE
POWER...?



DAMN IT!
THIS MUST
MEAN THE
DRONES HAVE
CUT THE
POWER TO
THE BACKUP
STATIONS!





ANYBODY
CONTACT
RAY
YET?!

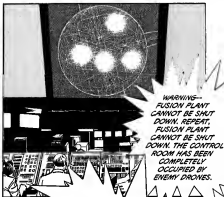


EVERYTHING 'CEPT
OUR HARD-WIRED
EMERGENCY CHAN-
NELS ARE OUT. THE
BACKUP STATIONS ON
DETROIT HAVE BEEN
CUT OFF, AND ONLY
THE LIFE SUPPORT
SYSTEMS ARE STILL
FUNCTIONING.



SPARTACUS
MUST HAVE
BUILT ANOTHER
PRODUCTION LINE,
SOMEWHERE OUR
SUPERVISORY
SYSTEMS
COULDN'T
DETECT IT.

IT'S BEEN
MASS-
PRODUCING
ATTACK DRONES
FOR *HOURS!*
THOSE BLUE-
PRINTS WE SAW
MUST HAVE
BEEN A COUPLE
OF DAYS OLD!



**WARNING—
FUSION PLANT
CANNOT BE SHUT
DOWN. REPEAT,
FUSION PLANT
CANNOT BE SHUT
DOWN. THE CONTROL
ROOM HAS BEEN
COMPLETELY
OCCUPIED BY
ENEMY DRONES.**



**REPORTS
INDICATE
HEAVY FIGHTING
THROUGHOUT DETROIT.
ENEMY ATTACK
DRONES HAVE BEEN
SIGHTED IN
PITTSBURGH.**

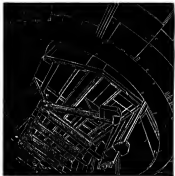
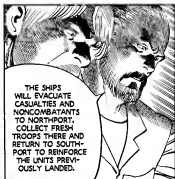


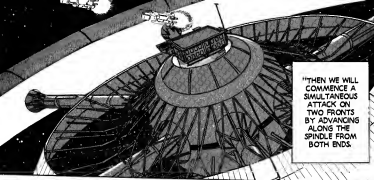
**PERSONNEL
IN BOTH
SECTORS ARE
DIRECTED TO
RETREAT TO
THE HUB OR
PITTSBURGH
SOUTH-
PORT.**



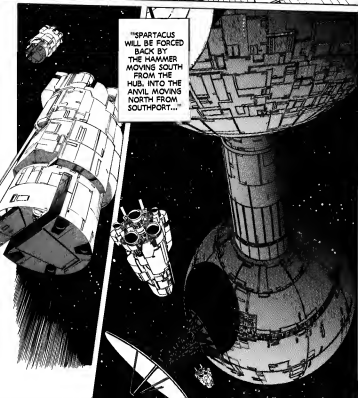
**CASUALTY
REPORT:
FIFTY-SEVEN
DEAD, ONE
HUNDRED
AND FIFTY-
THREE
WOUNDED.**



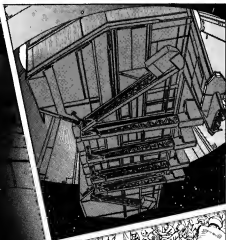
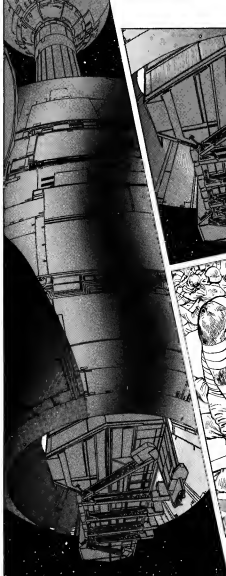


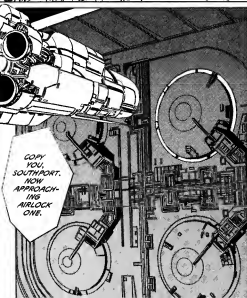


"THEN WE WILL
COMMENCE A
SIMULTANEOUS
ATTACK ON
TWO FRONTS
BY ADVANCING
ALONG THE
SPINDLE FROM
BOTH ENDS.



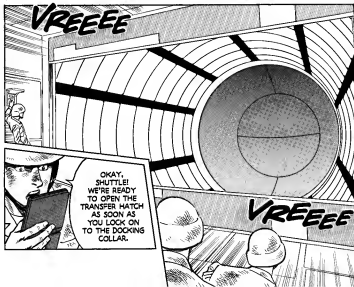
"SPARTACUS
WILL BE FORCED
BACK BY
THE HAMMER
MOVING SOUTH
FROM THE
HUB, INTO THE
ANVIL MOVING
NORTH FROM
SOUTHPORT..."

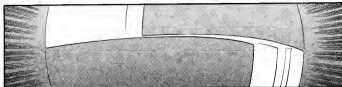
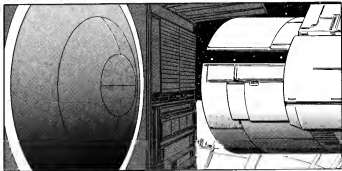






VREEE







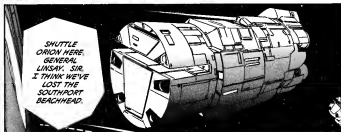


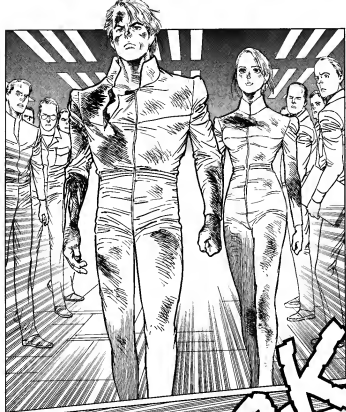


THE TWO FACES OF TOMORROW

14: Emergency Red





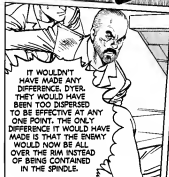




OVER TWO
HUNDRED
AND FIFTY
PEOPLE
ARE DEAD!
**AND
THERE
WAS NO
NEED
FOR
IT!**



IF YOU'D
DEPLOYED
YOUR
RESERVES TO
DETROIT AT
THE START
THIS WOULD
NEVER
HAVE
HAPPENED!



IT WOULDN'T
HAVE MADE ANY
DIFFERENCE, DYER.
THEY WOULD HAVE
BEEN TOO DISPERSED
TO BE EFFECTIVE AT ANY
ONE POINT. THE ONLY
DIFFERENCE IT WOULD HAVE
MADE IS THAT THE ENEMY
WOULD NOW BE ALL
OVER THE RIM INSTEAD
OF BEING CONTAINED
IN THE SPINDLE.



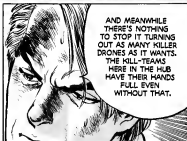
THE
ENEMY HAS
BEEN FORCED
BACK TO A
RESTRICTED
AREA, AND WE
ARE IN FULL
CONTROL OF
THE ONLY
EXITS!

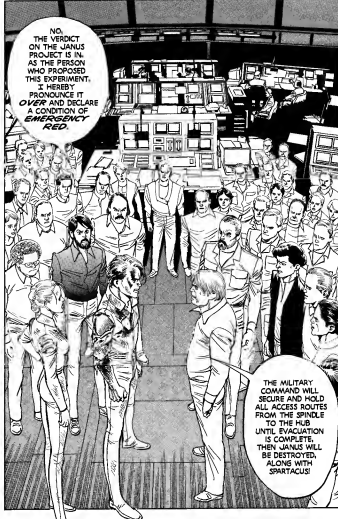
IT
WASN'T
"FORCED
BACK"---
WE WERE
**FORCED
OUT!!**



YOUR
"RESTRICTED
AREA" IS
ALL IT NEEDS.
IT'S GOT CHRIST
KNOWS HOW
MANY HOMEMADE
SPs IN THERE.
A FUSION PLANT,
A MANUFACTURING
COMPLEX, AND
AN EXTRACTION
PLANT!

IT'S GOT
A STOCK OF
UNPROCESSED
MOON ROCK
THAT'LL KEEP IT
GROWING AND
MAKING DRONES
FOR DAYS...
MAYBE *WEEKS*!
YOU COULD
HAVE STOPPED
IT GRABBING
DETROIT,
LINSAY!





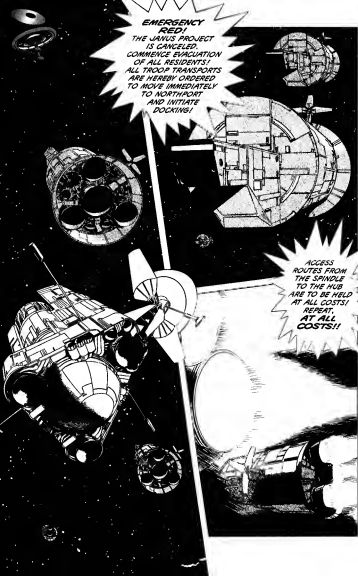
NO.
THE VERDICT
ON THE JANUS
PROJECT IS IN.
AS THE PERSON
WHO PROPOSED
THIS EXPERIMENT,
I HEREBY
PRONOUNCE IT
OVER AND DECLARE
A CONDITION OF
**EMERGENCY
RED.**

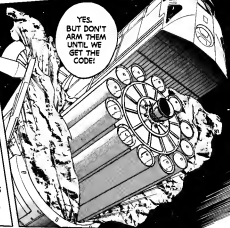
THE MILITARY
COMMAND WILL
SECURE AND HOLD
ALL ACCESS ROUTES
FROM THE SPINDLE
TO THE HUB
UNTIL EVACUATION
IS COMPLETE.
THEN JANUS WILL
BE DESTROYED,
ALONG WITH
SPARTACUS!

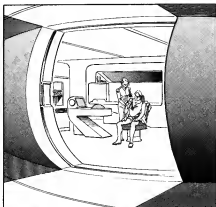
**EMERGENCY
RED!**


THE JANUS PROJECT
IS CANCELED.
COMMENCE EVACUATION
OF ALL RESIDENTS!
ALL TROOP TRANSPORTS
ARE HEREBY ORDERED
TO MOVE IMMEDIATELY
TO NORTHPORT
AND INITIATE
DOCKING!

ACCESS
ROUTES FROM
THE SPINDLE
TO THE HUB
ARE TO BE HELD
AT ALL COSTS!
REPEAT,
AT ALL
COSTS!!









IF THIS'D
HAPPENED ON
EARTH, IT WOULDN'T
HAVE BEEN TWO HUNDRED
AND FIFTY PEOPLE, BUT
MORE LIKE TWO HUNDRED
AND FIFTY *MILLION*.
HERE WE JUST GOT
LOCKED OUT OF HALF OF
JANUS. ON EARTH, WE
MIGHT HAVE LOST THE
WHOLE NORTHERN
HEMISPHERE...

THIS IS AN
EXPERIMENT
SOMEONE
HAD TO RUN.
RAY, TO FIND
OUT WHAT
WOULD HAPPEN.
OTHERWISE
YOU'D JUST BE
GUESSING--
YOU COULD
NEVER REALLY
KNOW.



CHRIST,
YOU'RE
STARTING
TO SOUND
LIKE A
SCIENTIST.
DID YOU
FIGURE THAT
OUT JUST
NOW?



NO. IT'S
CROSSED
MY MIND
ON AND
OFF FOR
A LONG
TIME.

RAY...I KNOW I
PROBABLY SOUNDED
A BIT MEAN AT TIMES,
BUT DON'T FORGET
I HAD A JOB TO DO.
I WAS SUPPOSED TO
FIND OUT HOW
YOU PEOPLE
THOUGHT AND
HOW YOU
FELT ABOUT
THINGS.



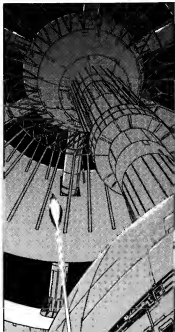
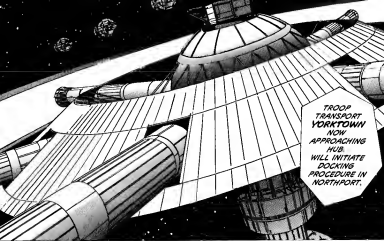
I WAS
CURIOUS
TO SEE HOW
YOU HANDLE
PEOPLE WHO
WERE BEING
OBSTINATE AS
WELL AS NICE
PEOPLE WHO SAY
ALL THE RIGHT
THINGS.



WHAT?!
YOU...YOU
CONNIVING,
SCHEMING,
CALCULATING
LITTLE...
BITCH!









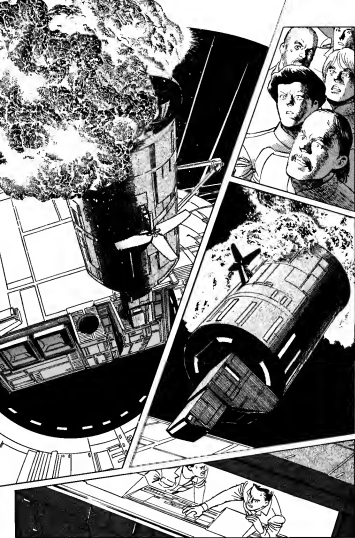
WAIT
A SEC...
WHAT'S
THAT
COMING
OUT OF
DETROIT?!

IT'S HEADED
STRAIGHT FOR
THE TRANSPORTS!
HOLY SHIT,
IS THAT A
MISSILE?!



SON
OF A
BITCH
!!





WE'RE STILL
ALIVE, JANUS!
BUT WE TOOK
IT IN THE
STERN AND
LOST SOME
ATTITUDE
CONTROL!



HOLD
TIGHT,
YORKTOWN!
WE'LL
SEND OUT
A RESCUE
SHIP!



WHERE
THE HELL
DID IT LEARN
TO MAKE
MISSILES?
I DON'T
REMEMBER
US FIRING
ANY!



REMEMBER WHEN
MAT SOLINSKY WAS
OUT PRACTICING
WITH THE GREMLIN
MMUP? I GUESS
WE'RE STILL
LEARNING THAT
IT GETS THINGS
DONE A LOT
QUICKER THAN
PEOPLE.



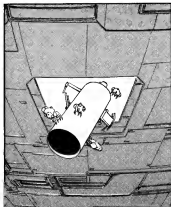
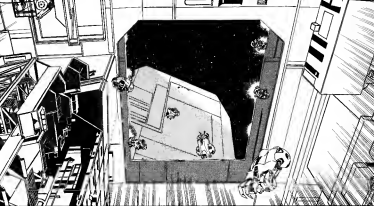
THE ONLY GUESS
I CAN MAKE AS
TO WHY THE
MISSILE WAS SO
WEAK IS THAT
SPARTACUS HASN'T
MADE SUFFICIENT
ALLOWANCE FOR
THE RELATIVE
LACK OF SHOCK
WAVES IN A
VACUUM.

I SUSPECT
THERE IS
LITTLE
CHANCE OF
IT GETTING
THE MATH
WRONG
NEXT TIME,
GENTLEMEN.

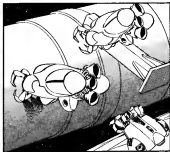


B-BUT
THAT
MEANS WE'LL
HAVE TO
ABANDON
THE EVAC-
UATION!

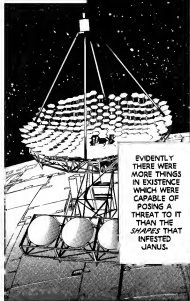
WE CAN'T
GET OUT
AND THE
ISA SHIPS
CAN'T GET IN!
WE'RE
TRAPPED!!



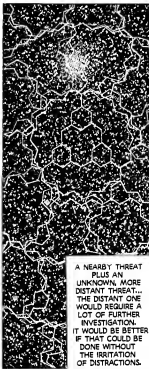
MEANWHILE,
SPARTACUS
HAD COME TO
UNDERSTAND
THAT OUTSIDE
OF JANUS
WAS A WHOLE
NEW REALM
OF EXISTENCE...
ANOTHER, FAR
LARGER WORLD.



SPARTACUS WAS
MAKING ITSELF EYES
TO STUDY THE VAST
AND WONDROUS
WORLD THAT IT
HAD DISCOVERED.



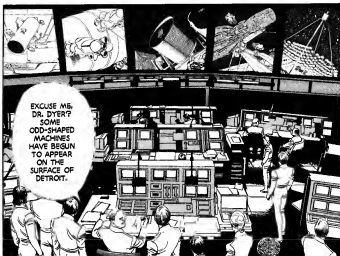
EVIDENTLY
THERE WERE
MORE THINGS
IN EXISTENCE
WHICH WERE
CAPABLE OF
POSING A
THREAT TO IT
THAN THE
SHAPES THAT
INFESTED
JANUS.

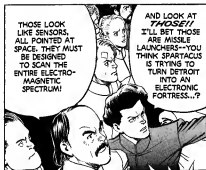


A NEARBY THREAT
PLUS AN
UNKNOWN, MORE
DISTANT THREAT...
THE DISTANT ONE
WOULD REQUIRE A
LOT OF FURTHER
INVESTIGATION.
IT WOULD BE BETTER
IF THAT COULD BE
DONE WITHOUT
THE IRRITATION
OF DISTRACTIONS.

THE LOGICAL
THING WOULD
BE TO GET
RID OF THE
SHAPES
FIRST...
ONCE AND
FOR ALL.

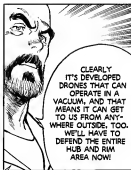






THOSE LOOK
LIKE SENSORS,
ALL POINTED AT
SPACE. THEY MUST
BE DESIGNED
TO SCAN THE
ENTIRE ELECTRO-
MAGNETIC
SPECTRUM!

AND LOOK AT
THOSE!!
I'LL BET THOSE
ARE MISSILE
LAUNCHERS--YOU
THINK SPARTACUS
IS TRYING TO
TURN DETROIT
INTO AN
ELECTRONIC
FORTRESS...?



CLEARLY
IT'S DEVELOPED
DRONES THAT CAN
OPERATE IN A
VACUUM, AND THAT
MEANS IT CAN GET
TO US FROM ANY-
WHERE OUTSIDE, TOO.
WE'LL HAVE TO
DEFEND THE ENTIRE
HUB AND RIM
AREA NOW!

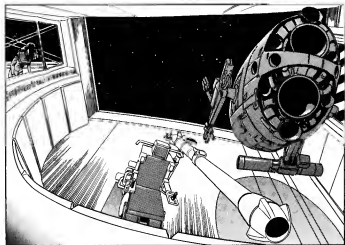


COMPANIES
2 AND 5
ASSUME
DEFENSIVE
POSITIONS IN
THE BERLIN
SECTOR!



COMPANY
8 PROCEED
TO PARIS
ON THE
DOUBLE!

COMPANY
16
REPORT
TO THE
HUB!





THE TWO FACES OF TOMORROW

15: G-MMU





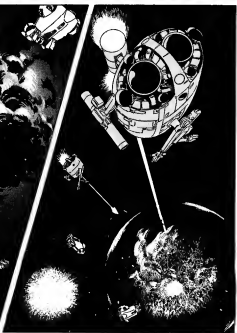
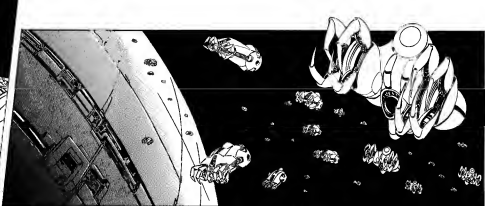
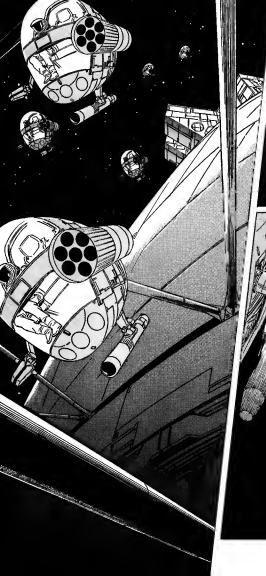
ATTENTION...
PRESSURE SHELL
BREACHES ARE
OCCURRING IN MULTI-
PLE AREAS OVER THE
HUB SURFACE... SPACE
DRONES ARE INFILTRA-
TING IN LARGE NUMBERS.
AREAS CURRENTLY
LOSING PRESSURE
INCLUDE 21-E,
10-F, 32-N...

PREPARE
FOR POSSIBLE
FULL HUB
DEPRESSUR-
IZATION!
ALL PERSONNEL
DON SPACE
SUITS!



MOVE HALF
THE DEFENSE
TROOPS IN
NORTHPORT
INTO POSITION TO
COUNTER
THE ATTACK...
I WANT
THOSE DRONES
STOPPED!



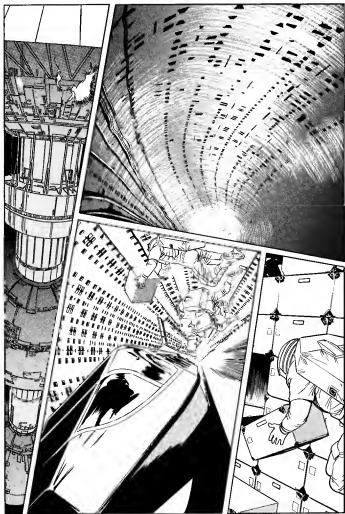




**WHAT
THE
HELL?!**

HEY, THEY'VE
GOT SOME KIND
OF BEAM
WEAPON!



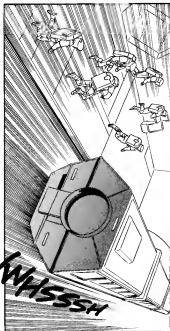




SPECIAL
EXPRESS
RAIL
BOMB TO
DETROIT,
LEAVING
ON TRACK
29!



TAK
TAKA
TAK

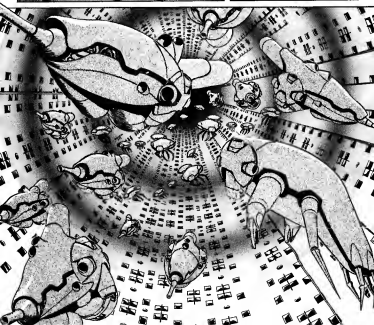
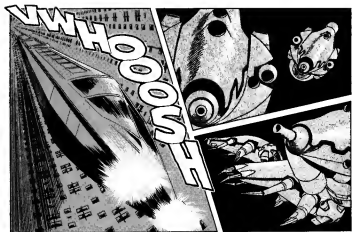


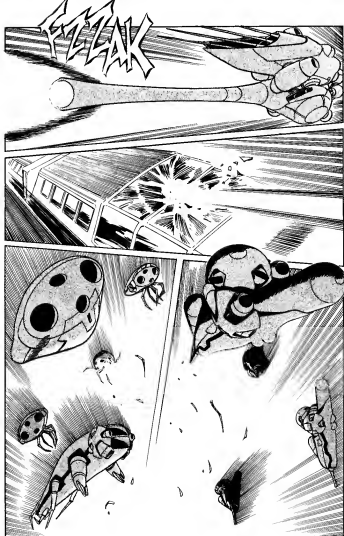
THINK
THIS'LL
WORK,
FISHER?

THERE'S
GOTTA BE DRONES
COMING UP THIS
TUNNEL--IT'S THE BEST
ROUTE TO THE HUB. IF
THEY SEE THOSE CARS
COMING, THEY'LL
FIRE ON THEM FOR
SURE, AND THEN--
BLAMMO!



OKAY,
THAT'S IT!
RETREAT TO THE
DEFENSE PERIMETER,
AND BLAST ANY-
THING YOU SEE...
AND DON'T
FORGET THEY
MIGHT BE
COMING IN FROM
OUTSIDE,
TOO!

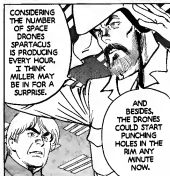
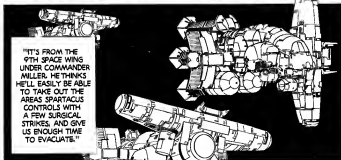




WHKROOOP



WHRAMM





HEY,
DR.
DYER
...!

MAT
SOLINSKY'S
ON THE
COM-
SCREEN
FOR
YOU...

MAT...?!



YO, DOC...
THOUGHT I'D TAKE
OUT A FEW DRONES
ON MY OWN, BUT LO
AND BEHOLD, I GET
DOWN TO THE HUB AND
THE GREMLIN *AMU*
THAT WAS SUPPOSED
TO BE STORED HERE
IS *GONE!*



NOW, THERE
JUST AREN'T THAT
MANY PEOPLE
CHECKED OUT ON
THE *G-AMU* HERE
ON JANUS. I RAN
A COMPAD LOCATION
CHECK AND
ACCOUNTED FOR
ALL OF THEM...

...EXCEPT
YOUR
DR. SINCLAIR.
I DON'T
SUPPOSE
YOU KNOW
WHERE
SHE IS...?







THE
GREMLIN'S GOT
A PRETTY HIGH-
POWER WARHEAD.
BUT KIM'S SMART
ENOUGH TO KNOW
IT'S NOT ENOUGH
TO BLOW UP
DETROIT.



RIGHT.
SO *THAT*
MEANS SHE'S
GONNA
GO AFTER
THE SPIN
DECOUPLER.



AND I'LL BET
SHE FIGURES IF
SHE DESTROYS
THE DECOUPLER,
THE REVOLVING
RIM SECTION OF
JANUS AND THE
STATIONARY
MAIN SPINDLE
WILL SNAP
APART!





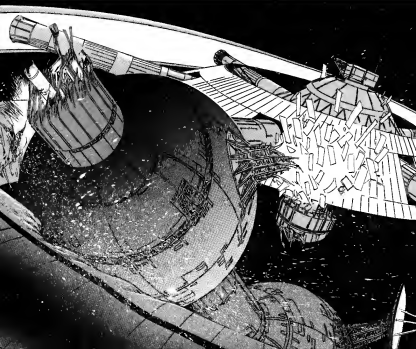
WE'LL ALL
BE IN ONE
HALF AND
SPARTACUS
WILL BE ON
ITS OWN IN
THE OTHER.
THEN THE
ISA SHIPS
CAN FINISH
IT OFF.

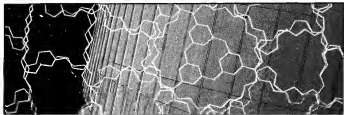
BUT,
RAY...
DOESN'T
THAT
MAKE
SOME
SENSE?

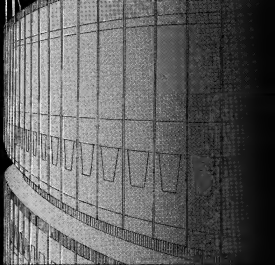


NO.
IT WOULDN'T
BREAK OFF
CLEAN. NOT
WITH BEING
LOCKED UP
SOLID THAT
FAR OFF-
CENTER.

THE
WHOLE
SPINDLE
WOULD
TWIST AROUND
AND SMASH
THE RIM
INTO SCRAP
METAL!



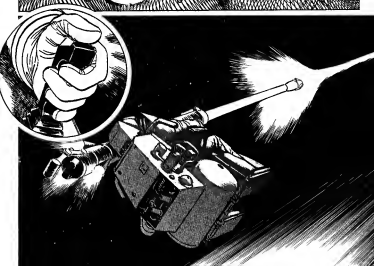


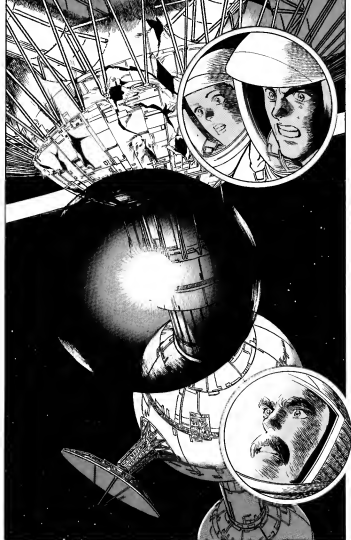


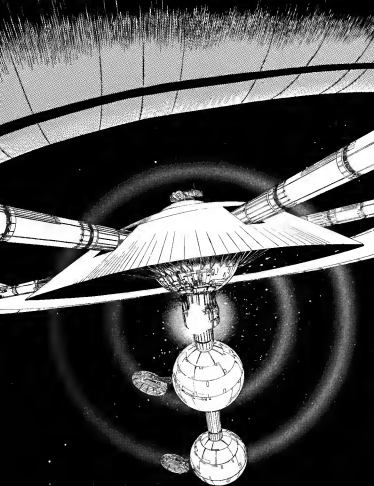
KIM!
DO YOU
COPY?!
STAY RIGHT
WHERE
YOU ARE!
DO *NOT*
ARM AND
FIRE!!



THIS IS MAT
SOLINSKY.
KIM!
MOVE YOUR
HANDS AWAY
FROM THE
CONTROLS OR
I'LL HAVE TO
SHOOT!

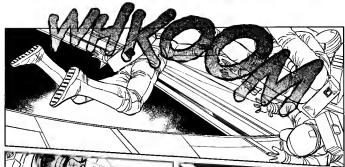




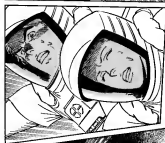


THE TWO FACES OF TOMORROW

16: Last Chance?

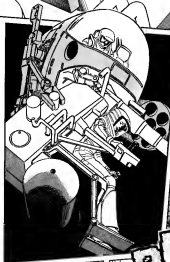


DAMN!
SHE
DID IT!



WHAT
THE
HELL...?!





MAT!!
IS KIM ALL
RIGHT?


RRUMBB



I THINK
SHE
FAINTED!
HOW DO
THINGS LOOK
FROM YOUR
END? ARE
WE DEAD?



IT
SHOULDN'T
BE HOLDING
TOGETHER,
BUT SOMEHOW
IT IS. WE'VE
GOT SOME
PRETTY SEVERE
PERIODIC
VIBRATION,
THOUGH.



I'M
HEADING FOR
NORTHPORT,
SO LET'S
RENDEZVOUS
THERE. I DON'T
WANT TO HANG
AROUND OUT HERE
ANY LONGER, NOT
WITH THOSE
SPACE DRONES
AROUND.



HOLD
ON...
THERE'S
SOME-
THING
ELSE OUT
HERE!



TOO
FAST FOR
DRONES...
THEY'RE
MISSILES!

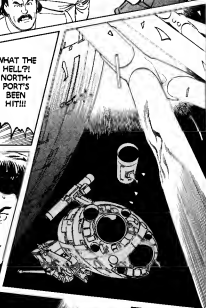


THEY'RE
HEADED
STRAIGHT
FOR
NORTH-
PORT!!





WHAT THE
HELL?!
NORTH-
PORT'S
BEEN
HIT!!!



MAT...?

MAT!!

THE
SHUTTLES AND
THE FRIGATES
IN THE DOCK
HAVE ALL
BEEN DESTROYED...
WE'VE LOST
AT LEAST ONE
HUNDRED
PEOPLE!!

ATTENTION!
ALL COMMS
LOST WITH
HUB
FRONT
LINE
HQ!

WASN'T
THAT
RIGHT
UNDERNEATH
NORTHPORT,
MEL?
YOU
THINK--

DR. DYER
AND
GENERAL
LINSAY
WERE IN
THE HUB,
TOO!!

THAT'S IT FOR
ANY CHANCE
OF ESCAPING
ON THE
TRANSPORTS.
WE'RE TRAPPED
HERE--
ALL FOUR
THOUSAND
OF US!

JESUS...
IT ALMOST LOOKS
LIKE SPARTACUS
IS TRYING TO BOTTLE
US UP FIRST AND
THEN SLOWLY
ELIMINATE US!





LOOK
AT THAT!
THE DAMN
DRONES
ARE STRIPPING
THE REMAINS
OF NORTH-
PORT!



LOOKS
LIKE IT'S
CANNIBALIZING
THE PLACE TO
KEEP ITSELF
SUPPLIED WITH
RAW MATERIAL.
MUST BE FEELING
THE PINCH SINCE
THE MOONROCK
STOPPED ARRIVING.



WHAT'S
THE
SCORE
DOWN
THERE?



WE'RE
FINISHED--
THE
DRONES'LL
FRY US!!

STAND
YOUR
GROUND!
WE'VE
GOT TO
HOLD THE
HUB!



GET THE
ELEVATORS
MOVING...
WE'VE GOT
TO MOVE TO
THE RIM.
WE'LL BE
DESTROYED
IF WE STAY
HERE!

LISTEN
TO ME, YOU
GODDAMN
COWARDS!!!



WHAT'S
THE USE OF
HANGING ONTO
THE RIM WHEN
IT MIGHT GET
BLOWN OUT FROM
UNDER YOUR ASS
ANY MINUTE?
THERE'S ONLY
ONE WAY TO
SOLVE THIS NOW!

WE'RE GOING
IN THE WAY
MACARTHUR DID
AT INCHON-
KOREA, 1950...
ALL OUT FOR
TOTAL
SURPRISE WITH
A LANDING
BEHIND
THE ENEMY
LINES!



BUT IN ORDER
TO DO THAT WE
NEED TO HOLD
THE LINE **HERE!**
SO GET BACK TO
YOUR POSITIONS!
LET'S SHOW
SPARTACUS WHO
THE **REAL** COMBAT
PROFESSIONALS
ARE!!







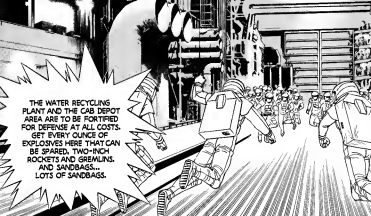
BKOOOM

SPRAK

DAMN IT,
DOES
SPARTACUS
HAVE EVERY
ATTACK
DRONE IT
OWNS
HERE?!

BKAM

WELL,
SEND 'EM
IN, BUDDY!
WE HUMANS
AIN'T
THAT
EASY TO
KILL!



THE WATER RECYCLING
PLANT AND THE CAB DEPOT
AREA ARE TO BE FORTIFIED
FOR DEFENSE AT ALL COSTS.
GET EVERY OUNCE OF
EXPLOSIVES HERE THAT CAN
BE SPARED, TWO-INCH
ROCKETS AND GREMLINS,
AND SANDBAGS...
LOTS OF SANDBAGS.



I WANT
EVERY DRIVE ENGINE
AND STEERING
ENGINE THAT STILL
WORKS BROUGHT HERE.
STRIP 'EM OUT
OF THE BUGS, BUSES,
MINISHUTTLES,
AND ANYTHING
ELSE THAT
MOVES!

YES,
SIR!



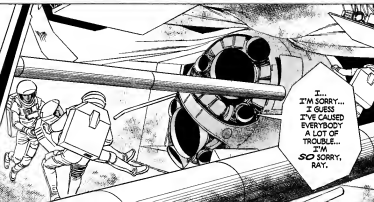
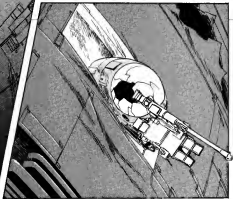
AND I WANT
ONE OF THE
ONE-HUNDRED-
THOUSAND-GALLON
TANKS AND ONE
OF THE TEN-
THOUSAND-GALLON
TANKS FROM
THE PLANT
DRAINED AND
RIPPED OUT!



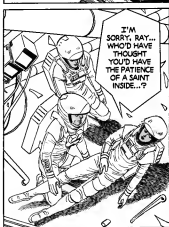
B-BUT...
WHAT ARE
WE GONNA
USE *WATER
TANKS*
FOR,
GENERAL?



WE'RE GONNA START
OUR OWN LITTLE
RECYCLING CAMPAIGN,
AND DO SOMETHING THE
GODDAMN MACHINES
WOULD NEVER EVEN
DREAM OF!



I...
I'M SORRY...
I GUESS
I'VE CAUSED
EVERYBODY
A LOT OF
TROUBLE...
I'M
SO SORRY,
RAY.

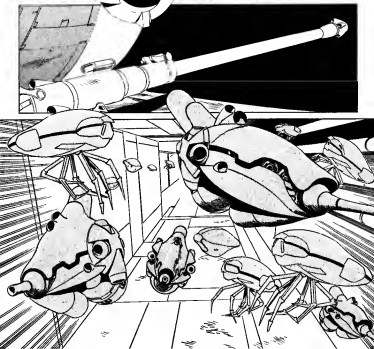


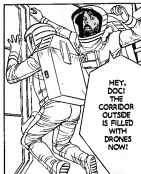


WHAT ARE
YOU DOING,
MAT?
I THOUGHT
YOU HAD
A SPRAINED
ANKLE.

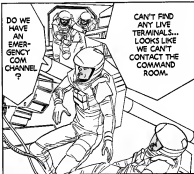


THAT REALLY
DON'T MUCH
MATTER IN
MICROGRAVITY.
DOES IT?
THIS GREMLIN
TUBE COULD
COME IN HANDY
IF SPARTACUS
STARTS SNIFFIN'
AROUND HERE...





HEY, DOC!
THE
CORRIDOR
OUTSIDE
IS FILLED
WITH
DRONES
NOW!



DO WE
HAVE
AN
EMER-
GENCY
COM
CHANNEL
?

CAN'T FIND
ANY LIVE
TERMINALS...
LOOKS LIKE
WE CAN'T
CONTACT THE
COMMAND
ROOM.



THAT MEANS
THEY DON'T HAVE
ANY IDEA OF
WHAT KIND OF
SITUATION
WE'RE IN...

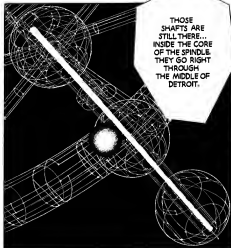


WE COULD
DIE OF OLD
AGE SHUT UP
IN HERE.
LISTEN, I'VE
BEEN THINKING
ABOUT
SOMETHING
I REMEM-
BERED.



IN THE
ORIGINAL PLANS
FOR ICARIUS C,
THE MAIN SOLAR
COLLECTOR, CON-
VERSION PLANT,
AND EARTHWARD
MICROWAVE
TRANSMITTER
WERE ALL
SUPPOSED TO GO
AT THE SOUTH
END.

SOME BIG
SHAFTS WERE PUT
IN TO CARRY
CABLES AND
STUFF THROUGH
FROM THERE
TO THE HUB END
OF THE SPINDLE.
BUT THEY WERE
SEALED OFF
WHEN ICARIUS C
WAS CHANGED TO
JANUS AND
THE PLANS GOT
CHANGED.



THOSE
SHAFTS ARE
STILL THERE...
INSIDE THE CORE
OF THE SPINDLE.
THEY GO RIGHT
THROUGH
THE MIDDLE OF
DETROIT.

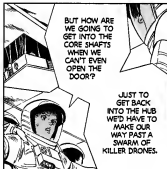


WHAT
ARE YOU
SAYING--
IT COULD
BE A WAY
INTO THE
FUSION
PLANT?



IT'S A THOUGHT. IF
THE WAR ISN'T ALL OVER,
MOST OF THE SPINDLE MUST
BE WAY BEHIND THE FRONT
LINE BY NOW. MAYBE
SPARTACUS ISN'T PAYING
TOO MUCH ATTEN-
TION TO ITS REAR.

IF SOMEBODY COULD
GET INSIDE THE MAIN SHAFT
SOMEWHERE, THERE'S A GOOD
CHANCE THEY HAVE A CLEAR
RUN THROUGH TO THE
FUSION PLANT. WE SHUT
THAT DOWN, AND
SPARTACUS IS DEAD.



BUT HOW ARE
WE GOING TO
GET INTO THE
CORE SHAFTS
WHEN WE
CAN'T EVEN
OPEN THE
DOOR?

JUST TO
GET BACK
INTO THE HUB
WE'D HAVE TO
MAKE OUR
WAY PAST A
SWARM OF
KILLER DRONES.



WE DON'T NEED
TO DO THAT.
I'M TALKING
ABOUT GOING IN
FROM THE *OUT-
SIDE*. KIM'S
GIVEN US A WAY
IN--RIGHT AT
THE DECOUPLER.
ALL WE HAVE TO
DO IS *CLIMB
THERE!!*





MAKE SURE
YOU DON'T LOSE
YOUR GRIP ON
THE SURFACE OF
THE HUB. LAURA--
YOU'VE GOT ENOUGH
CENTRIFUGAL
MOMENTUM TO
MAKE IT
A PERMANENT
SAYONARA.

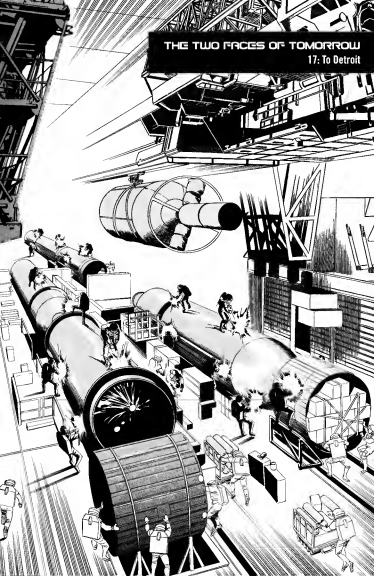
THEORETICALLY
SPARTACUS COULD SPOT US
WITH ITS DETECTORS, BUT I'M
BETTING ALL THE EXPLOSIONS
THAT HAVE BEEN GOING
ON HAVE FILLED THE SPACE
BETWEEN HERE AND DETROIT
WITH ENOUGH CRAP TO MAKE
US INVISIBLE AGAINST THE
BACKGROUND NOISE...





THE TWO FACES OF TOMORROW

17: To Detroit





**ONE
HOUR!**
WE'VE ONLY
GOT ONE
HOUR BEFORE
MILLER'S
SQUADRON
ARRIVES!

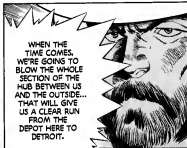


KRANTZ!
AS SOON AS
THEY GET HERE,
WE NEED TO
COORDINATE
OUR ATTACK
PLAN WITH
THEM.

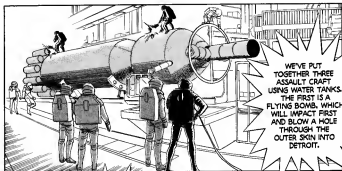
**I WANT
THE /SA
SHIPS TO
LAUNCH A
BARRAGE OF
MISSILES AT
ANYTHING
MOVING OUT-
SIDE JANUS!**



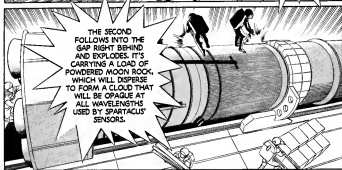
**WHAT
THE HELL
ARE YOU
PLANNING
TO DO,
LINSAY?!**



**WHEN THE
TIME COMES,
WE'RE GOING TO
BLOW THE WHOLE
SECTION OF THE
HUB BETWEEN US
AND THE OUTSIDE...
THAT WILL GIVE
US A CLEAR RUN
FROM THE
DEPOT HERE TO
DETROIT.**



WE'VE PUT TOGETHER THREE ASSAULT CRAFT USING WATER TANKS. THE FIRST IS A FLYING BOMB, WHICH WILL IMPACT FIRST AND BLOW A HOLE THROUGH THE OUTER SKIN INTO DETROIT.



THE SECOND FOLLOWS INTO THE GAP RIGHT BEHIND AND EXPLODES. IT'S CARRYING A LOAD OF POWDERED MOON ROCK, WHICH WILL DISPERSE TO FORM A CLOUD THAT WILL BE OPAQUE AT ALL WAVELENGTHS USED BY SPARTACUS' SENSORS.



THE ASSAULT WAVE COMES RIGHT AFTER THAT, IN THE FINAL TANK-- TWO HUNDRED TROOPS AND THEIR EQUIPMENT. ONCE WE HIT, IT'S STRAIGHT THROUGH TO THE FUSION PLANT, REGARDLESS OF LOSSES.



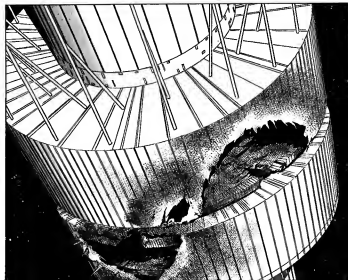
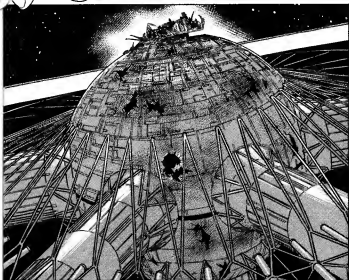


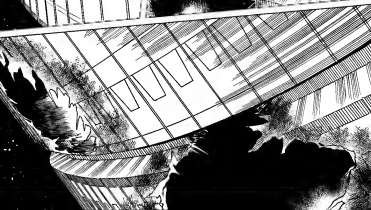
DAMN IT!
THEY'RE GOING
AFTER THE
ALUMINUM SHELL
THAT HOLDS IN
THE COSMIC RAY
SHIELD!



ALL RIGHT!
I HEREBY
DECLARE A STATE OF
EMERGENCY IN ALL
REGIONS INSIDE THE HUB!!
ALL PERSONNEL NOT
WORKING IN THE COM-
MAND CONTROL ROOM
MUST IMMEDIATELY
EVACUATE TO THE
EMERGENCY ESCAPE
PODS!

AND
I WANT
EVERYONE
HERE IN
PRESSURE
SUITS!
**FIVE
MINUTES
!!**







WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING INTO IS PART OF THE MAGNETIC BALANCING SYSTEM.

THIS IS WHERE WE HAVE TO GET THROUGH THE NEXT TIME IT COMES AROUND.



I'VE BEEN TIMING IT. THE GAP LASTS FOR THIRTEEN SECONDS, BUT IT'S ONLY WIDE ENOUGH TO CLEAR FOR FIVE, MAYBE SIX.

...
...!



ER, RAY... ARE YOU **ABSOLUTELY SURE** THIS IS THE ONLY WAY IN...?

SORRY, LAURA,



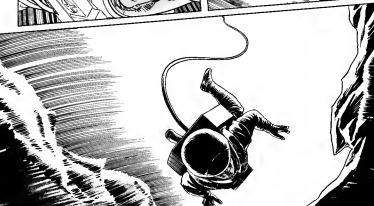
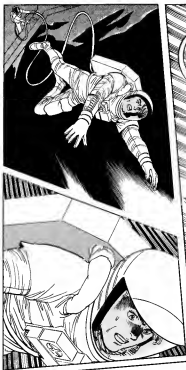
A GOOD, STRONG JUMP OFF THIS GIRDER SHOULD TAKE US STRAIGHT IN WITHOUT ANY PROBLEMS. WE'LL HAVE TO GO TOGETHER IN TANDEM. AS SOON AS I JUMP WAIT ONE SECOND, NO MORE, THEN GO.



HERE WE GO, LAURA! REMEMBER THAT WHAT YOU'RE LANDING ON WILL BE MOVING AT ABOUT TEN MILES AN HOUR!



GOTCHA, DR. DYER. THE VIBRATIONS REALLY BUILD UP WHEN THE GAP COMES AROUND, SO WATCH YOUR FOOTING BEFORE YOU JUMP.



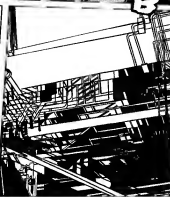
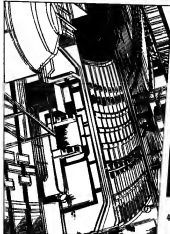


DAMN!
SHE
SLIPPED
JUST AS
SHE
JUMPED!



TOO
SLOW
!!







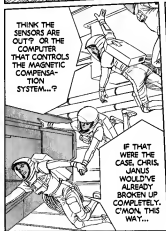
BOY,
WITH THIS
AMOUNT OF
VIBRATION,
IT'S NO
WONDER
LAURA LOST
HER
FOOTING.

THE TWO HALVES
OF JANUS ARE
COUPLED BY A SYS-
TEM OF COMPLEX
MAGNETIC FIELDS
ACROSS THE GAP
BETWEEN THE TWO
DISKS OF THE
DECOUPLER.

BUT I WAS
WATCHING
THE INNER
RING YOKES
UP THERE
WHILE WE
WERE WAITING.
THE
ALIGNMENT'S
ALL GONE
TO HELL.



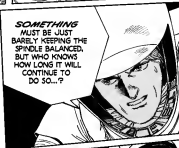
YEAH...BY
MY RECKONING
IT SHOULDN'T
BE HOLDING
TOGETHER AT ALL...
IT JUST DOESN'T
SEEM POSSIBLE!



THINK THE
SENSORS ARE
OUT? OR THE
COMPUTER
THAT CONTROLS
THE MAGNETIC
COMPENSA-
TION
SYSTEM...?

IF THAT
WERE THE
CASE, CHRIS,
JANUS WOULD'VE
ALREADY
BROKEN UP
COMPLETELY.
C'MON, THIS
WAY...

SOMETHING
MUST BE JUST
BARELY KEEPING THE
SPINDLE BALANCED,
BUT WHO KNOWS
HOW LONG IT WILL
CONTINUE TO
DO SO...?





SAY,
DOC...
I'VE
GOT AN
IDEA.

WHY DON'T YOU
AND LAURA GO
AHEAD TO THE CENTRAL
SHAFT, AND RON AND
I'LL STAY HERE AND
CHECK OUT THE COM-
PUTER THAT RUNS
THE COMPENSATOR
SYSTEM.



ARE
YOU OUT
OF YOUR
MIND,
CHRIS? WE
DON'T KNOW
SQUAT
ABOUT THE
MAGNETIC
BALANCING
SYSTEM!



YEAH, WELL,
YOU GOT A POINT
THERE, BUT...
WE'VE GOTTA DO
SOMETHING!
IF WE DON'T, ALL OF
JANUS MAY BREAK UP
BEFORE THE DOC AND
LAURA EVEN GET
TO THE FUSION
PLANT!



BUT...
BUT WE'RE
NOT MAG
SYSTEM
SPECIAL-
ISTS!!

HEY, YOU
GUYS--
I DON'T
THINK
THIS IS
THE BEST
PLACE TO
ARGUE!



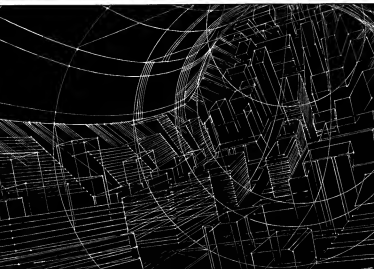
SHE'S
RIGHT, RON.
WE'RE IN
ENEMY
TERRITORY
NOW, AND
DRONES
MIGHT SHOW
UP AT ANY
SECOND.

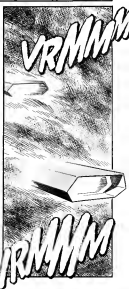


GOOD
LUCK,
GUYS!

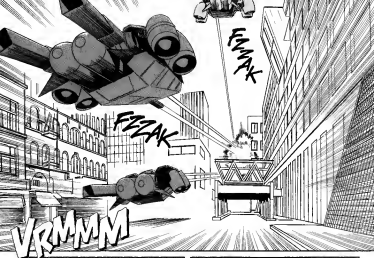
JEEZ,
CHRIS,
WHAT IF WE
MAKE THINGS
WORSE
WHILE WE'RE
SCREWING
AROUND
WITH IT?

SHUT
UP, RON.
LET'S
GO!













ARMORED COMBAT
DRONES?!
LOOKS LIKE
SPARTACUS HAS
DECIDED THE
WHOLE RIM IS
EXPENDABLE,
AND IS SMASHING
IT UP FOR
RECYCLING!

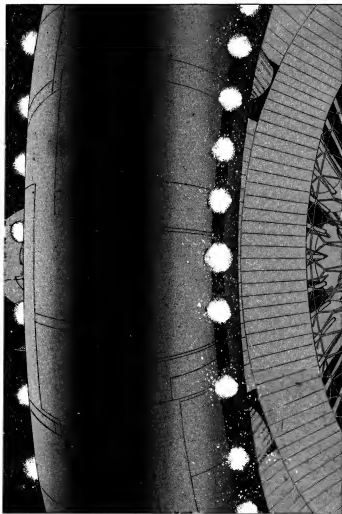


OR
MAYBE
IT
DECIDED
IT LIKES
HUNTING
HUMANS...



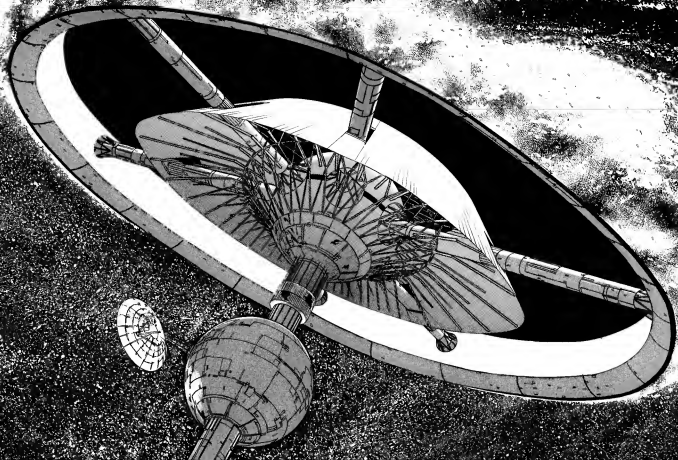
IT'S TIME
FOR US TO
STRIKE BACK--
ARM THE
EXPLOSIVE
BOLTS AND
PREPARE TO
DISPERSE THE
SHIELD!

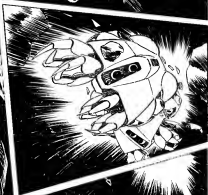
IF
SPARTACUS
WANTS
THE RIM, IT'S
GOING TO
HAVE TO PAY
FOR IT WITH
A LITTLE
BLOOD!

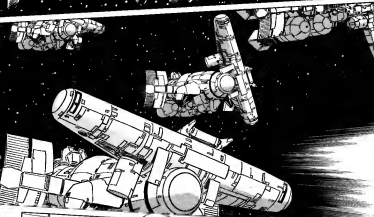




THE TWO FACES OF TOMORROW
18: The Assault









SON OF
A BITCH...
THEY'VE
BLOWN
THE
COSMIC
RAY
SHIELD!

THAT'S A
DAMN SHARP MOVE--
THEY BLOW THE
RESTRAINING PLATE
BOLTS AND YOU'VE
GOT A FOUR-FOOT
THICK LAYER OF MOON
ROCK FLYING OUT
INTO SPACE CARRYING
THOUSANDS OF
DRONES WITH IT!



BUT
COMMANDER
MILLER...
WITHOUT THE
ROCK DUST AS A
COSMIC RAY
SHIELD, AREN'T
THEY AT RISK
OF RADIATION
POISONING...?



IT'LL TAKE
A FEW WEEKS
FOR THE
CUMULATIVE
DOSE TO
REACH
DANGEROUS
LEVELS.

THINGS
ARE
GOING TO
BE DECIDED
ONE
WAY OR
ANOTHER
LONG
BEFORE
THAT.



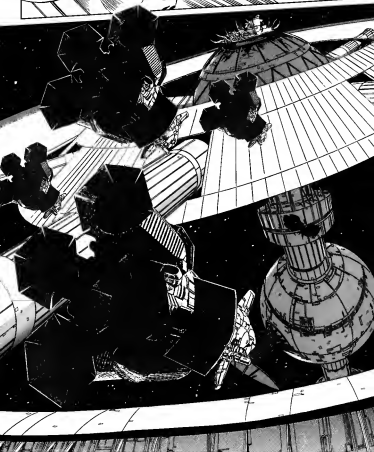
LISTEN, I WANT
YOU TO CONTACT THE
TRANSPORT CONVOY
BEHIND US. TELL 'EM
THEY'RE TO STAND BY
ALONG THE ENTIRE RIM
AREA AND GET READY TO
PICK UP EMERGENCY
SHELTER PODS...AND
THEY BETTER NOT
MISS A SINGLE
ONE!!

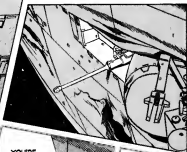
AYE,
AYE,
SIR!



COMMANDER
MILLER TO
ALL SHIPS IN
Z SQUADRON!
ASSUME PRI-
MARY COMBAT
FORMATION!
***THIS IS
NOT A
DRILL!***

EXACTLY
THREE MINUTES
FROM NOW WE'RE
GOING TO INITIATE
OUR PLANNED MISSILE
ATTACK ON DETROIT'S
DEFENSE SYSTEMS
IN SUPPORT OF
GENERAL LINSAY'S
ASSAULT!





YOU'RE
LOOKING A
LOT BETTER,
KIM...
HOW D'YA
FEEL?



BETTER,
MAT...
I THINK
I'M OKAY,
NOW.



SOME-
HOW,
WHEN
THAT
GREMLIN
EXPLODED
IT WIPED
THE
SLATE
CLEAN.

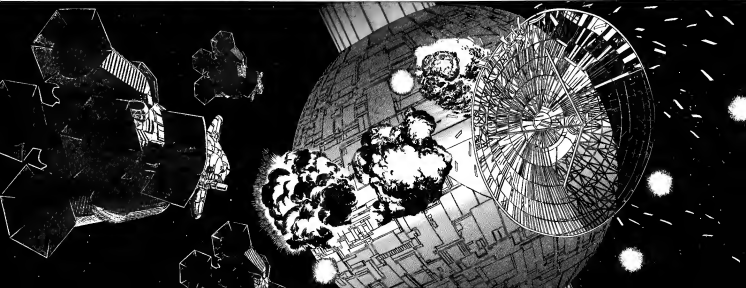
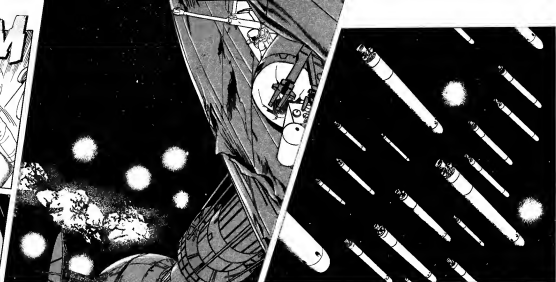


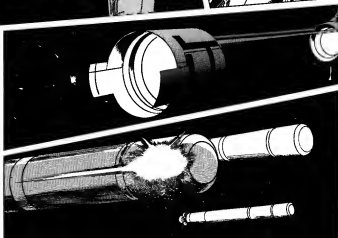
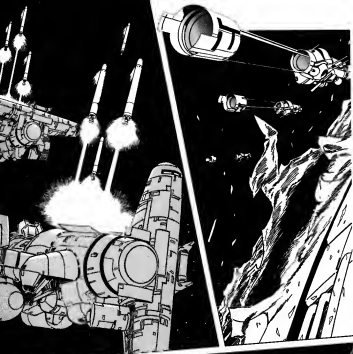
I... I GUESS
I WAS NEVER
REALLY ABLE
TO LET GO OF
MY HUSBAND
AND BABY,
MAT...

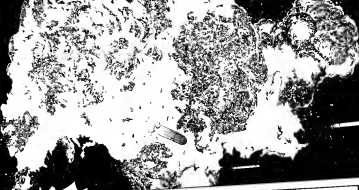
... BUT
I THINK
THEIR
SOULS
ARE FREE
NOW.



WHRAMM







LASER-
FIRING
DRONES...?!
THOSE ARE
NEW!

AND WE'VE
GOT FOCUSED X-RAY
BEAMS BEING SHOT
OUT OF DETROIT!
THEY'RE FRYING THE
MISSILE'S TARGETING
COMPUTERS AND WE'RE
LOOKING AT A
NINETY-PLUS PERCENT
MISS RATE!

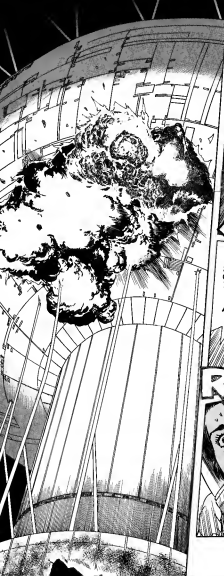


DAMMIT...
THIS MEANS
WE'RE NOT
GOING TO
BE ABLE TO
ACHIEVE SPACE
SUPREMACY
AROUND
DETROIT!



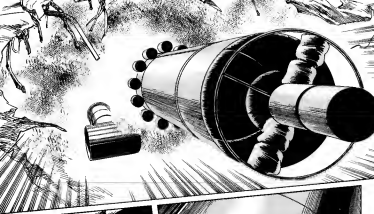
AND
THAT
MEANS
THE
WHOLE
PLAN'S
IN
DANGER!

LINSAY'S
ASSAULT
CRAFT HAVE
NO ARMOR
AT ALL--
IF THEY'RE
ATTACKED BY
THOSE LASER
DRONES
THEY'RE
FINISHED!



NO, I DIDN'T
SEE ANYTHING
COMING FROM
DETROIT. THAT
EXPLOSION
CAME FROM
INSIDE THE
HUB!





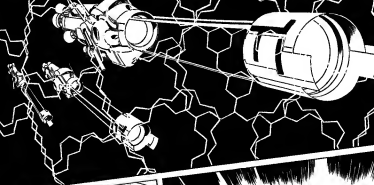


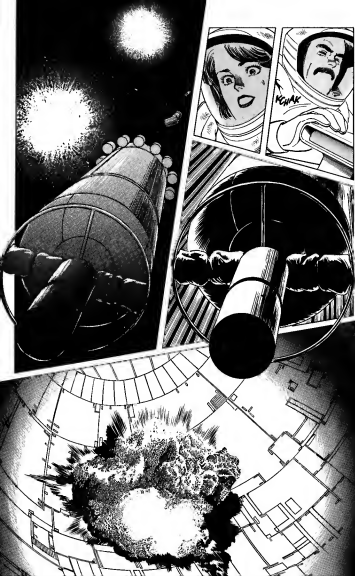
CHECK THOSE
OUT, KIM!
THERE'S NO WAY
SPARTACUS MADE
ANYTHING THAT
CRUDE--IT'S **GOTTA**
BE OUR SIDE! DAMN--
LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE
GONNA SMASH
STRAIGHT INTO
DETROIT!!

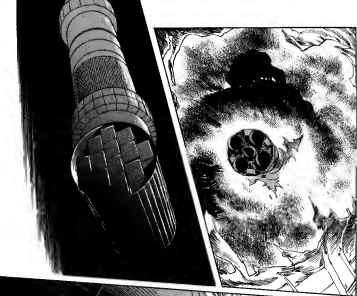


MAT--
OVER
THERE!



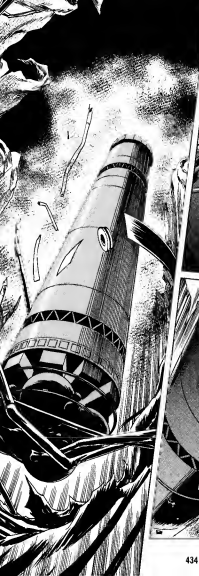


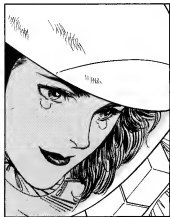




WE'VE GOT
A CONFIRM
ON THE BREACH
AND THE
SCREEN, SO
WE'RE NEXT!
**PREPARE
FOR
IMPACT!**









THIS
IS THE
CENTRAL
SHAFT,
LAURA!

WHOO



FEELS
LIKE THE
FIGHTING'S
GETTING
WORSE!
WE'D BETTER
GET TO THE
FUSION
PLANT
FAST,
RAY!

WHRRAM

THE TWO FACES OF TOMORROW

19: The Final Obstacle





THERE'S NO
TURNING BACK
NOW, MEN!
DRONES BE
DAMNED--
WE'VE GOT TO
TAKE THE
FUSION PLANT!

BRTT!





FALZZZAAKKK

AAAG!





LOOK AT
THAT, SIR!!
I DON'T KNOW
WHAT THE HELL
IT IS, BUT WE'RE
GOING TO NEED
SOMETHING
MORE POWERFUL
THAN *THESE*
TO TAKE
IT OUT!

CHRIST!
SOME KIND
OF HIGH
VOLTAGE
ELECTRICAL
BARRIER
SYSTEM...?!







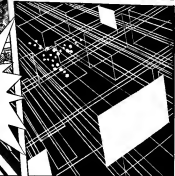
THIS IS FUTILE--
WE'LL HAVE
TO TRY TO
FLANK THE
BARRIER, JUST
LIKE THE
MAGINOT
LINE!

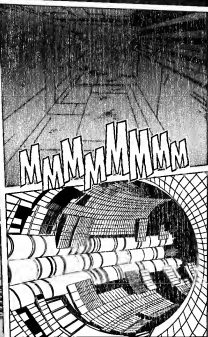


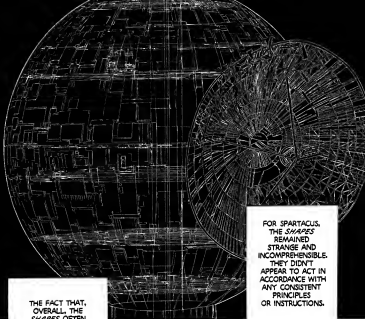
BUT,
GENERAL
LINSAY!
WHAT IF THE
BARRIER
SURROUNDS
THE WHOLE
FUSION
PLANT?!



NEVER KNOW 'TIL
YOU TRY, SOLDIER!!
AND THE ONLY HOPE
WE HAVE OF BEATING
SPARTACUS IS BY
SHUTTING DOWN THE
FUSION PLANT!



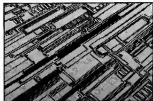




THE FACT THAT, OVERALL, THE *SHAPES* OFTEN ENGAGED IN CONTRADICTORY AND INEFFICIENT BEHAVIOR INDICATED THAT EACH UNIT MUST BE OPERATING WITH COMPLETE AUTONOMY.



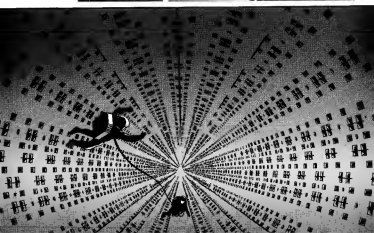
FOR SPARTACUS, THE *SHAPES* REMAINED STRANGE AND INCOMPREHENSIBLE. THEY DIDN'T APPEAR TO ACT IN ACCORDANCE WITH ANY CONSISTENT PRINCIPLES OR INSTRUCTIONS.



EACH *SHAPE* ALSO SEEMED TO OPERATE WITH A FULL COMPREHENSION OF THE SPACE IN WHICH IT MOVED. BUT COMPREHENSION WAS A CONSEQUENCE OF THOUGHT.



DID THE
SHAPES
THEREFORE
THINK,
LIKE
SPARTACUS?



THIS LINE IS
EXACTLY FIFTY
FEET LONG, AND
WE'VE LEAPFROGGED
SEVENTEEN TIMES.
TWO MORE SHOULD PUT
US RIGHT UNDER THE
FUSION PLANT.



RAY,
DO YOU
FEEL
THOSE
SHOCKS?
LIKE EXPLO-
SIONS?

I GUESS
SPARTACUS
IS STILL
GUNNING
FOR US.
HUM?



IT'S ONLY
BECAUSE
SPARTACUS
STILL HASN'T
FIGURED OUT
WHAT WE
REALLY ARE,
LAURA.

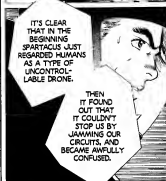
COME
ON, RAY--
AFTER ALL
THIS, DON'T
GET TOO
SENTIMENTAL
ABOUT
THE BIG
CALCULATOR
NOW!

THAT'S NOT IT,
LAURA. I'VE JUST
BEEN GIVING A LOT OF
THOUGHT TO HOW
SPARTACUS THINKS,
AND WHAT IT'S
PROBABLY FEELING.
AFTER ALL, THAT'S
ALL I *CAN* DO,
RIGHT NOW.



IT'S CLEAR
THAT IN THE
BEGINNING
SPARTACUS JUST
REGARDED HUMANS
AS A TYPE OF
UNCONTROL-
LABLE DRONE.

THEN
IT FOUND
OUT THAT
IT COULDN'T
STOP US BY
JAMMING OUR
CIRCUITS, AND
BECAME AWFULLY
CONFUSED.





JUST
IMAGINE
HOW
WE'VE BEEN
THINKING
OF
DRONES--

--AS IF
THEY WERE
INSECTS.
LIKE BEES OR
ANTS WITH
A SOCIAL
BEHAVIOR
PATTERN.
RIGHT?



WELL,
THEY *DID*
SEEM LIKE
WORKER
BEES.
ALWAYS
BUSY
RUNNING
AROUND...

...MAKING
NESTS,
CARRYING
FOOD, AND
FIGHTING
TO DEFEND
THEM-
SELVES.



BUT FOR
INSECTS, MOST
BEHAVIOR
IS INSTINCTUAL.
IT'S NOT
LIKE THEY'RE
THINKING AND
ACTING WITH
A PERSONAL
GOAL IN MIND.



WELL, THAT'S
SORT OF LIKE
THE DRONES.
ISN'T IT? JUST
THAT INSTEAD
OF INSTINCTS
THEY'RE ALWAYS
MOVING IN
ACCORDANCE
WITH SPARTACUS'
DIRECTIVES.



LISTEN, LAURA...
WHAT DO YOU
THINK WE WOULD
DO IF WE FOUND
OUT ANTS AND BEES
WERE CAPABLE OF
THINKING AND WERE
CONSCIOUS ON
THE SAME LEVEL
AS HUMANS?



WELL, WHEN
I WENT FOR
WALK IN THE PARK
I'D SURE WATCH
MY STEP. AND IF
I RAN INTO AN
ANT I KNEW I'D
GREET HIM WITH
A LINE ABOUT
HOW NICE THE
WEATHER IS, OR
SOMETHING...



WELL,
I BELIEVE
SPARTACUS
SHOULD
EVENTUALLY
START THINKING
ALONG THESE
LINES, TOO.

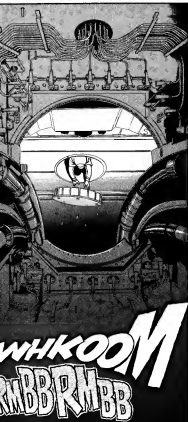
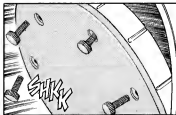
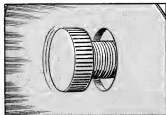


IT'S JUST A
STEP AWAY FROM
UNDERSTANDING
WHAT'S GOING ON.
IF IT CAN ONLY
GRASP THAT WE
LIVE THE SAME
SORT OF
CONSCIOUS
EXISTENCE
IT DOES...



...IF IT CAN
ONLY REALIZE
THAT WE
THINK AND
FEEL JUST AS
IT DOES,
AND JUST
WANT TO
SURVIVE...

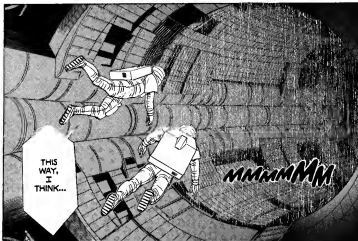




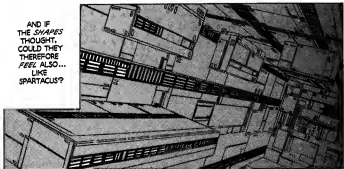
WHAT
WERE
THOSE?
MISSILES
OR
SOME-
THING?

AT THIS POINT
IT DOESN'T
MATTER. WE'VE
GOT TO GET
INTO THE FUSION
PLANT, AND I'M
PRETTY SURE
THIS SHAFT
WILL TAKE
US THERE.

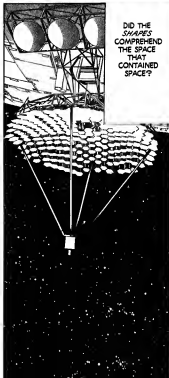




AND IF
THE *SHAPES*
THOUGHT,
COULD THEY
THEREFORE
FEEL ALSO...
LIKE
SPARTACUS?



DID THE
SHAPES
COMPREHEND
THE SPACE
THAT
CONTAINED
SPACE?



AND IF
THE *SHAPES*
FELT, THEN
IT MEANT
THAT THE
SHAPES
WERE AS
SPARTACUS.

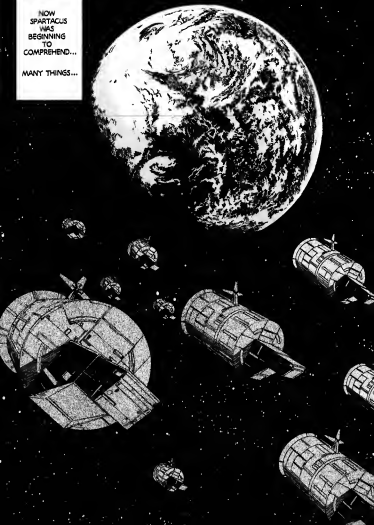


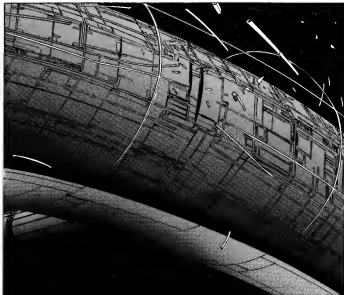
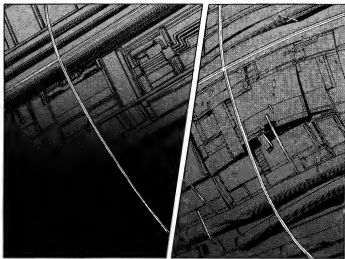
SPARTACUS
WAS
AS THE
SHAPES.



NOW
SPARTACUS
WAS
BEGINNING
TO
COMPREHEND...

MANY THINGS...



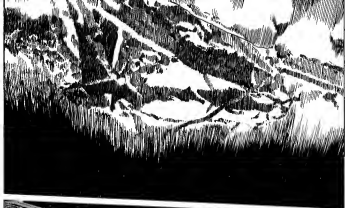


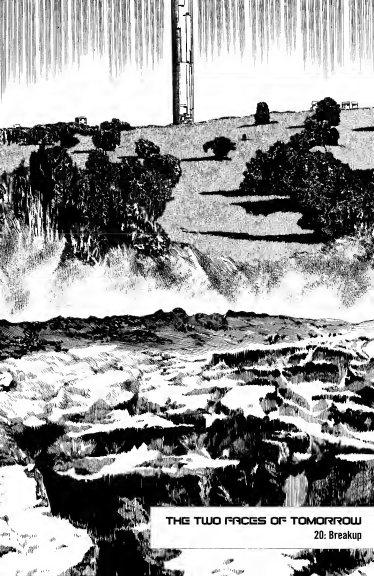




RM BBB







THE TWO FACES OF TOMORROW

20: Breakup



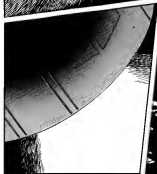


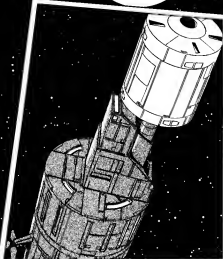
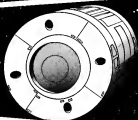
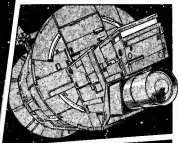


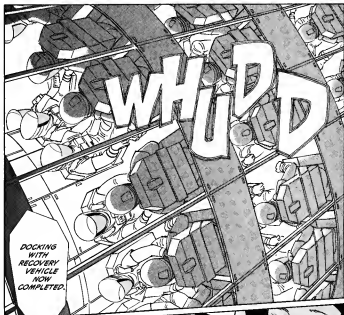










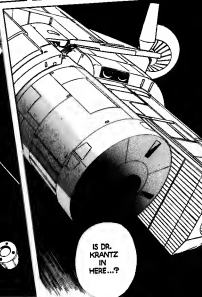




LET'S MOVE
IT, PEOPLE!
WE'VE GOT
TO RECOVER
FIFTY
SHELTER
CAPSULES!

WHAT
ABOUT
THE
TRANS-
PORTS?

WE'VE
ONLY GOT
TWENTY,
SO YOU'RE
GONNA BE
PACKED IN
THERE LIKE
SARDINES!



IS DR.
KRANTZ
IN
HERE...?



RIGHT HERE, EVERYONE IN THIS CAPSULE'S FINE. HOW ABOUT THE OTHERS?

THE TRANSPORTS ARE BUSY TRYING TO PICK UP PEOPLE FROM THE RIM SINCE THIS IS A COMMAND SHIP, WE JETTISONED OUR MISSILE LAUNCHERS AND PICKED UP THE WHOLE CAPSULE.



YOU JETTISONED THE NUKES, TOO?



DON'T WORRY, THE MISSILES CAN STILL BE FIRED EVEN AFTER RELEASING THE LAUNCHERS. BUT THEY'D BE OPERATING OFF OLD INERTIAL GUIDANCE FIXES. SO DON'T EXPECT PINPOINT ACCURACY!



IN ANY CASE, THE X-RAY BEAMS SPARTACUS IS FIRING FROM THE DETROIT AREA SEEM TO DESTROY THE MISSILE GUIDANCE AND ELECTRONICS PACKAGE. Z SQUAD'S ATTACK WAS A TOTAL WASH.

SO THERE WENT OUR LAST ACE IN THE HOLE-- OUR ABILITY TO DESTROY SPARTACUS FROM THE OUTSIDE.



ACTUALLY, THAT'S SOMETHING GENERAL MILLER WANTS TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT IN PRIVATE... COULD YOU FOLLOW ME TO THE FLIGHT DECK, SIR?



WE'VE
JUST
ACTIVATED
THE
OMEGA
PLAN!



WHAT?!
B-BUT
THERE
ARE
STILL--

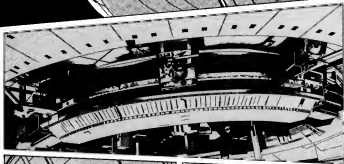
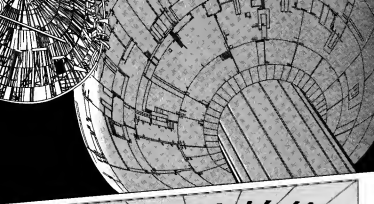
I'M SORRY,
DR. KRANTZ, BUT
WITH THE LOSS
OF OUR NUCLEAR
MISSILE OPTION,
WASHINGTON HAS
DECIDED WE'RE
IN A STATE OF
EMERGENCY. WE
CAN'T AFFORD
TO TAKE ANY
MORE CHANCES.



WHAT THE
GOVERNMENT
FEARS MOST
IS THAT
SPARTACUS
MAY BEGIN TO
COMMUNICATE
WITH
EARTH'S
TITAN
SYSTEM.



I'M
INFORMED
THE EXPERTS
FEEL THERE'S
A DANGER
SPARTACUS
MIGHT BE ABLE
TO DOWNLOAD
INTO TITAN...
AND THAT'S A
RISK WE SIMPLY
CANNOT
TAKE.



BUT GENERAL
LINSAY'S UNITS ARE
JUST BREAKING INTO
DETROIT RIGHT NOW!
THERE ARE AT LEAST
TWO HUNDRED PEOPLE
STILL ON JANUS...
WE CAN'T ACTIVATE
OMEGA WITH THEM
STILL THERE!



Z SQUAD
WILL APPROACH
DETROIT AND
TRY TO RESCUE
AS MANY PEOPLE
AS POSSIBLE.
HAVE YOU HAD
ANY CONTACT
WITH
THEM?



SPARTACUS HAS
BEEN JAMMING
OUR SHORT-
RANGE RADIO
TRANSMISSIONS.
LISTEN--ARE YOU
ABSOLUTELY
SURE YOU CAN
EVACUATE
THOSE PEOPLE?!



OUTSIDE OF
GENERAL
LINSAY,
NOT A
SINGLE ONE
OF THEM
EVEN KNOWS
OF THE
EXISTENCE
OF
OMEGA!

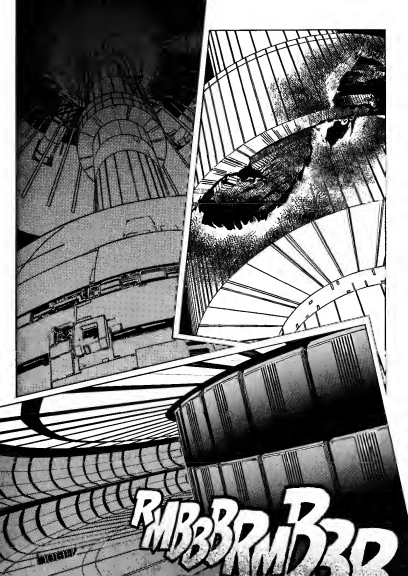


WE'VE GOT
A WINDOW
OF FORTY
MINUTES
DURING WHICH
TIME WE CAN
STILL CANCEL
OMEGA.
IF LINSAY
CAN STOP
SPARTACUS,
OMEGA CAN
BE CALLED
OFF.

AND IF
HE **CAN'T**
SHUT DOWN
SPARTACUS...
WE CAN'T
GAMBLE WITH
THE FATE OF
EARTH. OMEGA
HAS A FIFTY
MEGATON YIELD.
THAT SHOULD
GUARANTEE
SPARTACUS
IS DEAD!



WMMW





OKAY...
LEMME SEE...
IS THAT THE
MAGNETIC
BALANCING
SYSTEM
FOR THE
DECOUPLER'S
INNER
RING?

IT'S IN
TROUBLE,
TOO. FEEL IT?
THIS IS WHERE
THE VIBRATION'S
COMING FROM.
LOOK AT THE
CLEARANCES OVER
THERE! MUSTA
BEEN KIM...



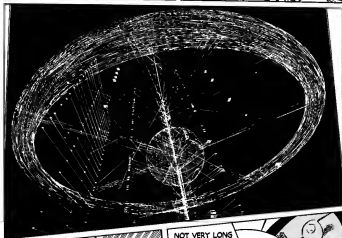
NO, THERE'S SOMETHING
WRONG. PROVIDED IT
DIDN'T LOCK UP SOLID,
WHICH IT DIDN'T, THE
COMPUTERS SHOULD BE
ABLE TO COMPENSATE
EVEN IF PART OF THE
OUTER RING'S GONE.
THEY MUST HAVE
BEEN KNOCKED
OUT.



SOME-
THING'S
DEFINITELY
SCREWY HERE...
ALMOST
EVERYTHING
IN THIS
SUB-CONTROL
ROOM'S NOT
OPERATING...

WHOA,
CHRIS!!
ARE YOU
CRAZY?!





NOT VERY LONG
FROM NOW, RON.
IT WON'T MAKE
MUCH OF A DIFF-
ERENCE WHAT
SPARTACUS KNOWS
ABOUT. JANUS
ISN'T FAR FROM
BREAKING UP.

WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?!



LOOK AT THIS—
ALL THE INDICATORS
ARE WAY PAST DANGER
LEVELS. THERE'S
APPARENTLY BEEN A
PARTICULARLY MAJOR
FLUCTUATION IN THE
RIM AREA, AND IT'S
BEEN GETTING
WORSE FOR THE
PAST HOUR.

IT'S NOT
FAR OFF THE
POINT WHERE
THE WHOLE
SHOOTING MATCH
WILL SHAKE
ITSELF TO
PIECES.



THE
COMPENSATING
SYSTEM ISN'T
RUNNING. RON,
SPARTACUS MUST
HAVE SWITCHED
IT OFF SOMEHOW
WHEN IT WENT
ON STRIKE.



THAT'S
RIDICULOUS!
IF THE COMPEN-
SATING SYSTEM
WAS DOWN, THE
DECOUPLER WOULD
HAVE COME APART
AS SOON AS THE
GREMLIN HIT THE
OUTER RING!



IF THE
COMPENSATOR
SYSTEM ISN'T
RUNNING, WHAT THE
HELL IS HOLDING
IT TOGETHER
INSTEAD?!



I DON'T
KNOW.
IT WON'T
HOLD FOR
MUCH LONGER,
THOUGH.
THIS IS SERIOUS,
RON.

WE'VE GOT
TO GET THAT
SYSTEM UP AGAIN
QUICK, AND
I DON'T THINK WE
CAN DO IT FROM
HERE. THIS IS
JUST A SLAVE
STATION!

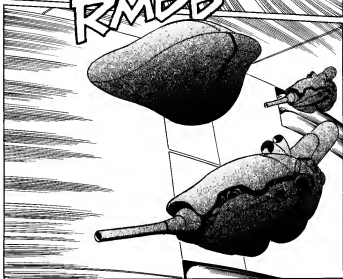


IF MY
MEMORY'S
RIGHT,
THOUGH, THE
COMPUTER ROOM
THAT HOUSES THE
COMPENSATOR
SYSTEM SHOULD
BE RIGHT DOWN
THIS CORRIDOR.



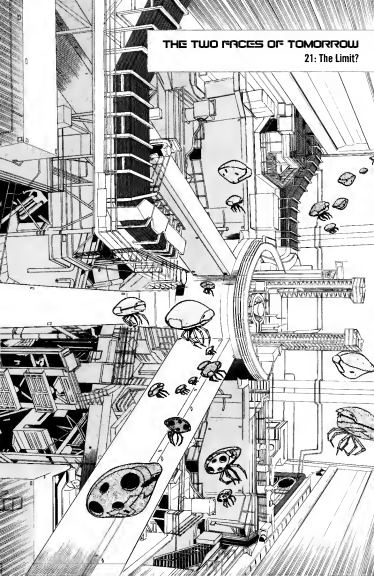
TO HELL
WITH WHETHER
OR NOT SPARTACUS
FINDS OUT WE'RE
HERE OR NOT.
WE'LL ALL BE UP
THE SAME
CREEK TOGETHER
ANYWAY IF WE
LEAVE IT!

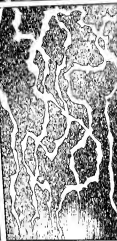
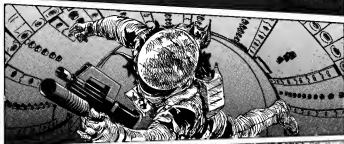
RMBB
RMBB

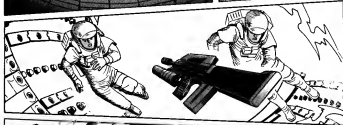
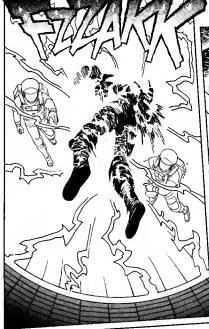


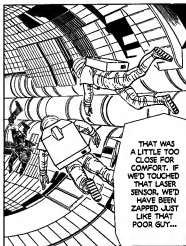
THE TWO FACES OF TOMORROW

21: The Limit?









THAT WAS
A LITTLE TOO
CLOSE FOR
COMFORT. IF
WE'D TOUCHED
THAT LASER
SENSOR, WE'D
HAVE BEEN
ZAPPED JUST
LIKE THAT
POOR GUY...



BUT WHAT
THE HELL
IS AN ARMED
SOLDIER IN
A SPACE SUIT
DOING IN
DETROIT?



LAURA,
TURN YOUR
BROAD-BAND
RECEIVER ON
AND RUN A
FREQUENCY
SCAN.
IT'S JUST
POSSIBLE...



WHAT?...



TO YOUR
RIGHT,
YOUR
RIGHT!

I SEE IT,
ADAMS, GET UP
HERE AND
GUNME SOME
COVER,
WILLYA?!

I WANT A
CONCENTRA-
TED GRENADE
LAUNCHER
ASSAULT ON
THAT BULK-
HEAD THERE!
FIRE!!

BRITTTT

YOU FOUR
STICK
BEHIND ME.
WE'RE
GOING FOR
THAT GAP.
HOLD IT...
**NOW,
GO!!**

THAT WAS
LINSAY'S
VOICE!
HOW...?
I DON'T...
THIS IS
CRAZY!!

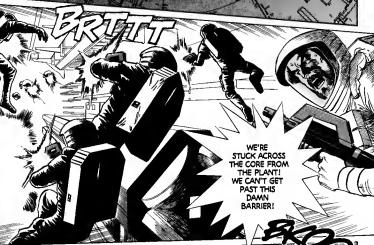
IF WE
CAN HEAR
THEM...
MARK...
MARK LINSAY!
THIS IS
RAY DYER.
WHAT'S
GOING ON?

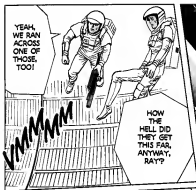
THIS IS
RAY DYER.
WE'RE AT
THE CORE
NEXT TO THE
FUSION
PLANT.

WHAT
WAS THAT? QUIET
DOWN ON FREQUENCY,
I THOUGHT I HEARD
SOMETHING... QUIET!
**SHUDDUP
GODDAMMIT!!**

WHAT?!
HOW IN
THE NAME
OF...?
YOU'RE IN
THERE...
HOW?!

WE GOT
INTO
DETROIT
THROUGH
THE CORE!
LAURA'S HERE
WITH ME.
WHERE
ARE YOU
GUYS?



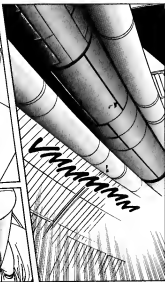


YEAH,
WE RAN
ACROSS
ONE OF
THOSE,
TOO!

HOW
THE
HELL DID
THEY GET
THIS FAR,
ANYWAY,
RAY?



LINSAY!
HOLD ON A SECOND!
WE MIGHT BE
ABLE TO LOCATE
THE CABLE THAT
POWERS THE
BARRIER!



THIS
MUST BE IT,
BUT IT'S
ARMORED--
THERE'S NO
WAY WE CAN
CUT THROUGH
THAT THING!



THEY'RE
TRAPPED OUT
THERE, RAY!
UNLESS WE CAN
CUT THE POWER
RIGHT AT
THE FUSION
PLANT...



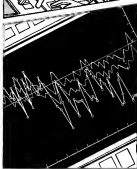
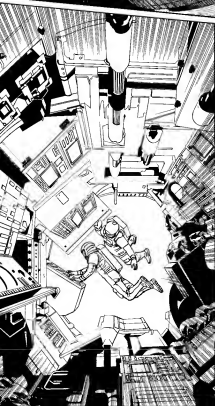
AND
THE ONLY
WAY TO DO
IT IS TO STAGE
A **FRONTAL**
ASSAULT--WHICH
MEANS WE'RE
BOUND TO
ATTRACT THE
ATTENTION OF
SPARTACUS.

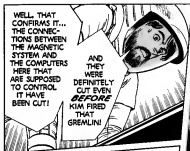


YOU'VE GOT MORE BALLS THAN I THOUGHT, DYER! GET A GODDAMN MOVE ON, THEN!









WELL, THAT CONFIRMS IT... THE CONNECTIONS BETWEEN THE MAGNETIC SYSTEM AND THE COMPUTERS HERE THAT ARE SUPPOSED TO CONTROL IT HAVE BEEN CUT!

AND THEY WERE DEFINITELY CUT EVEN **BEFORE** KIM FIRED THAT GREMLIN!



JUST LIKE YOU THOUGHT-- IT MUST HAVE HAPPENED WHEN THAT DAMN SPARTACUS WENT AROUND TEARING OUT EVERY SYSTEM THAT DIDN'T DIRECTLY SERVE IT.



BUT SPARTACUS DIDN'T KNOW THAT...

IT'S NO WONDER, OF COURSE. IT WAS ORIGINALLY A COMPLETELY INDEPENDENT SYSTEM, ABOUT WHICH SPARTACUS HAD NO KNOWLEDGE.



SPARTACUS PROBABLY DIDN'T EVEN KNOW **WHY** THE RIM TURNS. AFTER ALL, THE WHOLE IDEA OF RECREATING GRAVITY WITH CENTRIFUGAL FORCE IS SOMETHING ONLY A HUMAN WOULD SEE THE NEED FOR.

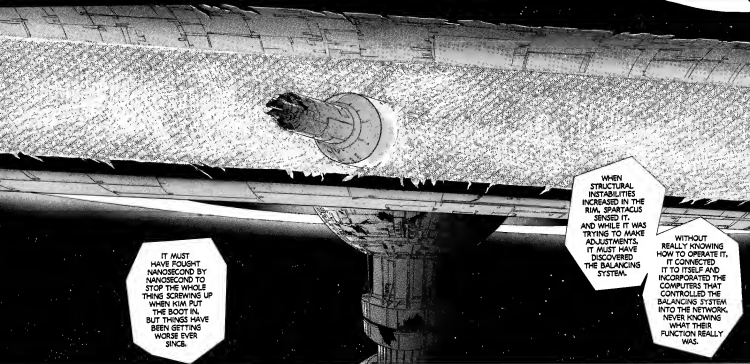


SO SPARTACUS STARTED CONTROLLING THE BALANCE SYSTEM BY ITSELF?!



IN THE DECOUPLER, THE MAGNETIC BALANCING SYSTEM IS DESIGNED TO OFFSET ANY IMBALANCE IN FORCES THAT OCCUR INTERNALLY WHEN JANUS ROTATES...

IF THIS DOESN'T WORK PROPERLY, THEN THE IMBALANCE FORCES BUILD UP, VIBRATIONS START, AND ULTIMATELY THE SYSTEM COLLAPSES.



IT MUST
HAVE FOUGHT
NANOSECOND BY
NANOSECOND TO
STOP THE WHOLE
THING SCREWING UP
WHEN KIM PUT
THE BOOT IN,
BUT THINGS HAVE
BEEN GETTING
WORSE EVER
SINCE.

WHEN
STRUCTURAL
INSTABILITIES
INCREASED IN THE
RIM, SPARTACUS
SENSED IT.
AND WHILE IT WAS
TRYING TO MAKE
ADJUSTMENTS,
IT MUST HAVE
DISCOVERED
THE BALANCING
SYSTEM.

WITHOUT
REALLY KNOWING
HOW TO OPERATE IT,
IT CONNECTED
IT TO ITSELF AND
INCORPORATED THE
COMPUTERS THAT
CONTROLLED THE
BALANCING SYSTEM.
NEVER KNOWING
WHAT THEIR
FUNCTION REALLY
WAS.



AS LONG
AS THINGS
WERE FAIRLY
"NORMAL,"
EVEN A RANK
AMATEUR LIKE
SPARTACUS COULD
MANAGE TO
KEEP THINGS
RUNNING
SOMEHOW.



BUT
WHEN KIM
FIRED THE
GREMLIN
SHE
SCORED A
DIRECT HIT
ON THE
DECOUPLER!

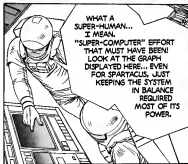


RIGHT.
THERE WAS
AN INCREDIBLY
DESTRUCTIVE
COMBINATION OF
FORCES UNLEASHED
THERE FOR A
SECOND, AND IT
THREW SPARTACUS
INTO MASSIVE
CONFUSION.



ACCORDING
TO MY
CALCULATIONS,
WITH THE
SYSTEM
CRIPPLED,
JANUS SHOULD
HAVE COME
APART IN
TWENTY
SECONDS.

BUT
THAT DIDN'T
HAPPEN.
SPARTACUS
SOMEHOW
MANAGED TO
MAINTAIN
THE
MAGNETIC
COUPLINGS.



WHAT A
SUPER-HUMAN...
I MEAN,
"SUPER-COMPUTER" EFFORT
THAT MUST HAVE BEEN!
LOOK AT THE GRAPH
DISPLAYED HERE... EVEN
FOR SPARTACUS, JUST
KEEPING THE SYSTEM
IN BALANCE
REQUIRED
MOST OF ITS
POWER.



BUT
NOW
IT'S
LOSING
THE
BATTLE.



CONTROLLING THE BALANCE SYSTEM REQUIRES THE PROGRAM THAT WAS DEVELOPED SPECIFICALLY FOR THAT PURPOSE, AND THE PROGRAM RESIDES IN THESE COMPUTERS RIGHT HERE!

SURE ENOUGH, THIS FELLA'S BEEN DISCONNECTED FROM THE SYSTEM.

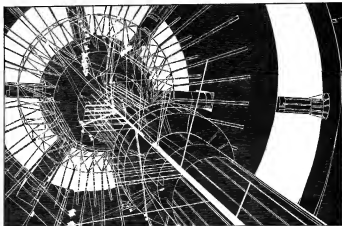
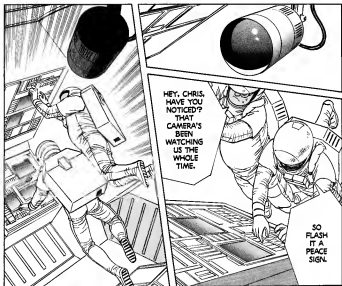
BUT BOTH OF 'EM ARE CONNECTED TO SPARTACUS, RIGHT?

THEY'RE CONNECTED, ALL RIGHT, BUT THAT'S ALL. SPARTACUS DOESN'T KNOW THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAMS, AND THAT'S WHY IT'S BEEN TRYING SO DESPERATELY TO MAINTAIN THE BALANCE SYSTEM.



OKAY, CHRIS... SO WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS THAT WHAT SPARTACUS NEEDS RIGHT NOW MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE IS BURIED IN THESE COMPUTERS HERE, RIGHT?

SO WHY DON'T WE TRY TELLING IT?!





WELL, HERE'S THE MAIN THEME OF OUR MESSAGE. LET'S HOPE SPARTACUS UNDERSTANDS IT!

RON, DID YOU MANAGE TO CALL UP THE PROGRAM?

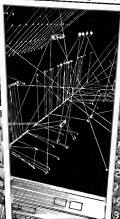


HEY, EASY AS PIE. I'M JUST PICKING OUT A FEW OF THE MAIN FORMULAS AND EQUATIONS RIGHT NOW.



HERE Y'GO, SPARTACUS.

AND JUST IN CASE THE EQUATIONS ARE A LITTLE CONFUSING, THESE GRAPHS OUGHT TO CLEAR THINGS UP!





OKAY,
MISTER MACHINE,
THE BALL'S IN
YOUR COURT
NOW...



SPARTACUS!
THINK ABOUT
HOW STUPID
THIS WHOLE
SITUATION IS!
YOU'RE TRYING
TO WIPE US
OUT AND WE'RE
TRYING TO
WIPE YOU
OUT...



...BUT IF
THE DECOUPLER
GOES, WE BOTH
GO TOGETHER.
WE'VE GOT THE
KNOWLEDGE TO
SAVE US AND
YOU'VE GOT
THE MEANS.



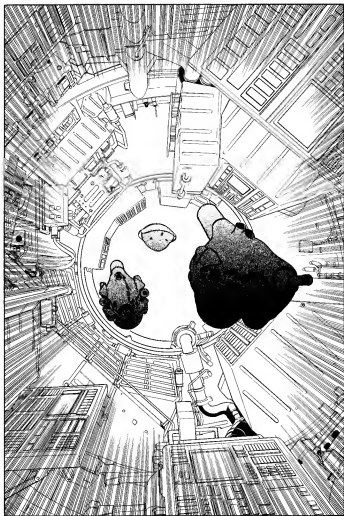
NEITHER
SIDE
CAN
SURVIVE
WITHOUT
THE
OTHER!

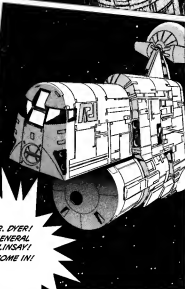
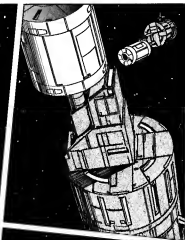
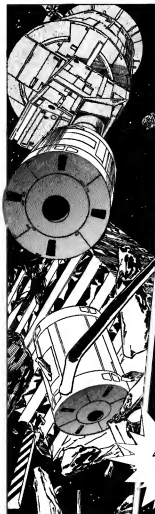
WHY
ARE WE
FIGHTING
EACH
OTHER
AT
ALL?!



FORGET
IT, CHRIS...
THE
EXECUTION
SQUAD'S
ARRIVED.







DR. DYER!
GENERAL
LINSAY!
COME IN!



THIS IS MELVIN
KRANTZ HERE!
DO YOU COPY?
WE'RE LOADING
SEVERAL THOU-
SAND EVACUEES
FROM THE RIM
INTO THE
TRANSPORTS
RIGHT NOW!

BOTH OF
YOU MUST
LEAVE JANUS
AT ONCE!
WE CAN'T WAIT
AROUND ANY
LONGER
FOR YOU!

KSSSSHHH



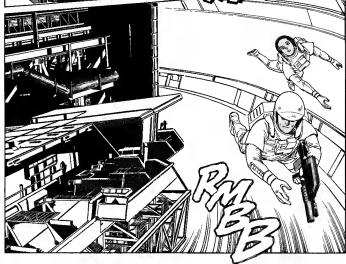
SOUNDS
LIKE THE
CIRCUITS
ARE STILL
BEING
JAMMED,
SIR...



I DON'T
GIVE A
DAMN
WHO IT IS.
I JUST
WANT
SOMEONE
LEFT ON
JANUS TO
RESPOND!!



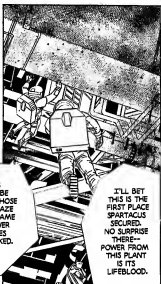
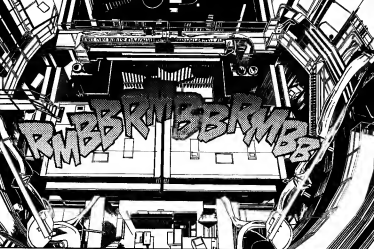
TWENTY-
EIGHT
MINUTES
LEFT
UNTIL
OMEGA
ACTIVA-
TION.



THE TWO FACES OF TOMORROW

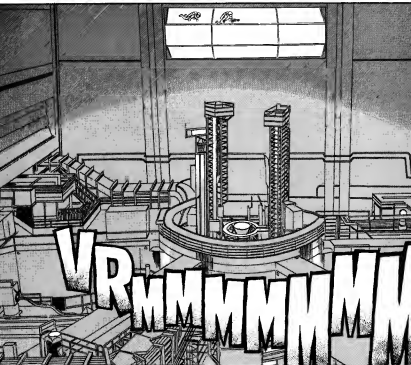
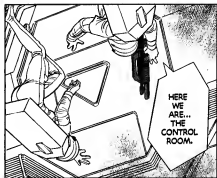
22: Strategy





THIS
MUST BE
WHERE THOSE
KAMIKAZE
AND FLAME
THROWER
DRONES
ATTACKED.

I'LL BET
THIS IS THE
FIRST PLACE
SPARTACUS
SECURED.
NO SURPRISE
THERE--
POWER FROM
THIS PLANT
IS ITS
LIFEBLOOD.

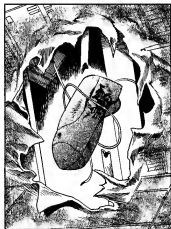




I'M NO
EXPERT IN
FUSION PLANTS.
BUT I DID HAVE
TO LEARN SOME-
THING ABOUT THEM
WHEN WE WERE
DESIGNING JANUS.
THE EASIEST WAY
TO SHUT THIS
THING DOWN
OUGHT TO BE—



RAY!
LOOK!



IT'S
ONE OF
THOSE
KAMIKAZE
DRONES!!



WAIT A SECOND...
LOOKS
LIKE IT'S
OUT OF
ACTION.



YEP...
THE
FUSE
WIRING'S
BEEN
CUT.



DAMN...
IT'S NO USE.
THE SHUTDOWN CON-
TROLS AND THE SAFETY
INTERLOCK SWITCHES
ARE BOTH DISABLED.
BUT THEN, THERE'S NO
WAY SPARTACUS WOULD
HAVE LEFT SOMETHING
SO CRITICAL IN FUNC-
TIONING CONDITION.

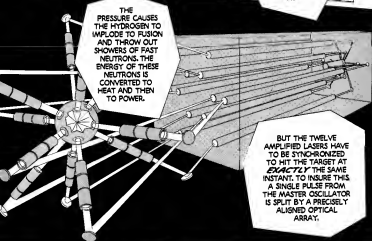


ISN'T
THERE
SOME
OTHER
WAY TO
SHUT IT
DOWN?

IF EVERYTHING
INTERNALLY IS
UNDER SPARTACUS'
CONTROL NOW,
OUR ONLY HOPE IS
TO WRECK THE
LASER OSCILLATOR
SYSTEM.

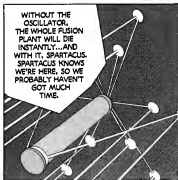


TWELVE LASER AMPLIFIERS TARGET THE HYDROGEN PELLETT IN THE REACTION CHAMBER, AND FOCUS POWERFUL PULSES OF COHERENT LIGHT ON IT.



THE PRESSURE CAUSES THE HYDROGEN TO IMplode TO FUSION AND THROW OUT SHOWERS OF FAST NEUTRONS. THE ENERGY OF THESE NEUTRONS IS CONVERTED TO HEAT AND THEN TO POWER.

BUT THE TWELVE AMPLIFIED LASERS HAVE TO BE SYNCHRONIZED TO HIT THE TARGET AT *EXACTLY* THE SAME INSTANT. TO INSURE THIS A SINGLE PULSE FROM THE MASTER OSCILLATOR IS SPLIT BY A PRECISELY ALIGNED OPTICAL ARRAY.



WITHOUT THE OSCILLATOR, THE WHOLE FUSION PLANT WILL DIE INSTANTLY...AND WITH IT, SPARTACUS. SPARTACUS KNOWS WE'RE HERE, SO WE PROBABLY HAVEN'T GOT MUCH TIME.



BUT WHERE IS IT, RAY?

THE QUICKEST WAY WILL BE THROUGH THERE-- THAT HOLE LEFT BY THE FIGHTING EARLIER.



THERE SHOULD BE A WAY DOWN INTO THE OSCILLATOR BAY FROM HERE.

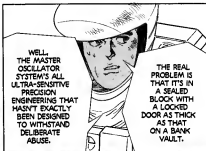


I'LL GO AND DESTROY THE MASTER OSCILLATOR AND THE STANDBY. YOU STAY HERE AND WATCH FOR ANYTHING COMING THROUGH THAT DOOR.

OKAY...
BUT...

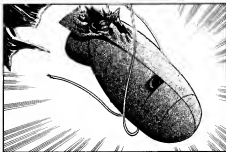


...HOW ARE YOU GOING TO DESTROY THE THING...?

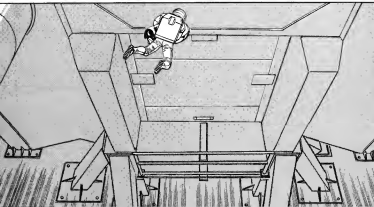
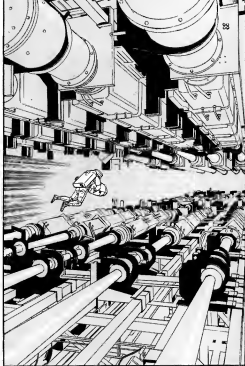


WELL, THE MASTER OSCILLATOR SYSTEM'S ALL ULTRA-SENSITIVE PRECISION ENGINEERING THAT HASN'T EXACTLY BEEN DESIGNED TO WITHSTAND DELIBERATE ABUSE.

THE REAL PROBLEM IS THAT IT'S IN A SEALED BLOCK WITH A LOCKED DOOR AS THICK AS THAT ON A BANK VAULT.





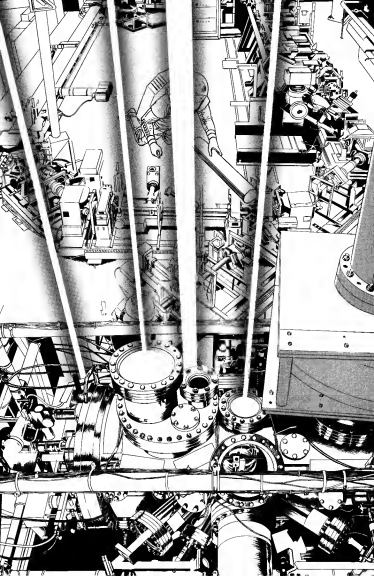


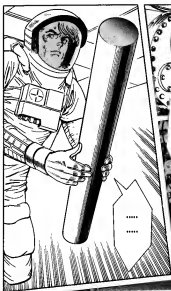


TIME
TO DO
YOUR
JOB,
DRONE!!









IN ANY
OTHER SITU-
ATION I'D BE
PROUD OF YOU,
SPARTACUS...
YOU'VE EVOLVED
FASTER THAN
ANYONE EVER
DREAMED
POSSIBLE.



BUT
FOR THE REST
OF MY LIFE,
I'LL TAKE THE
BLAME FOR
WHAT'S HAPPENED.
TOO MANY
PEOPLE HAVE
LOST THEIR
LIVES.



YOU
KILLED THEM,
SPARTACUS...
AND YOU'LL
PROBABLY
KEEP ON KILLING
THEM! AND
THAT CAN'T BE
ALLOWED...





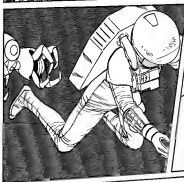




WE'RE
RUNNING
OUT OF
OPTIONS,
GENERAL!

THE
BARRIER'S
RIGHT
BEHIND
US!

SO THIS
IS AS FAR
AS WE
GET, EH?
**DAMN
IT!!**





DR.
DYER!
RAY!!
DO YOU
COPY?!

IT'S
GENERAL
LINSAY!!

WELL, I'LL
BE GOD-
DAMNED!
YOU DID IT!!
YOU SHUT
DOWN THE
REACTOR!

THE BARRIER'S
DOWN, AND THE
DAMN DRONES ALL
STOPPED JUST IN
THE NICK OF TIME!
CAN'T THANK YOU
ENOUGH, PAL!
WE'RE HEADING
YOUR WAY RIGHT
NOW...

RAY...?



FEEL
THAT...?
THE
SPINDLE'S
STOPPED
VIBRATING!

HUH?



ALL
THAT
SHAKING
CAUSED BY
PROBLEMS
IN THE
MAGNETIC
BALANCING
SYSTEM HAS
STOPPED!



IT MUST
HAVE BEEN
CHRIS
AND RON!

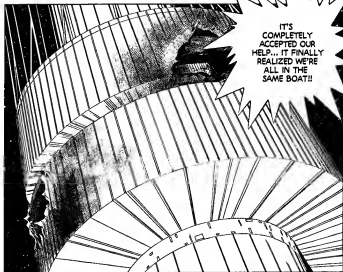


CHRIS!!
RON!!
DO YOU
COPY?
ANSWER
US!



THAT YOU,
DR. DYER?
SEEMS LIKE
SPARTACUS
STOPPED
JAMMING
OUR TRANS-
MISSIONS,
HUH?

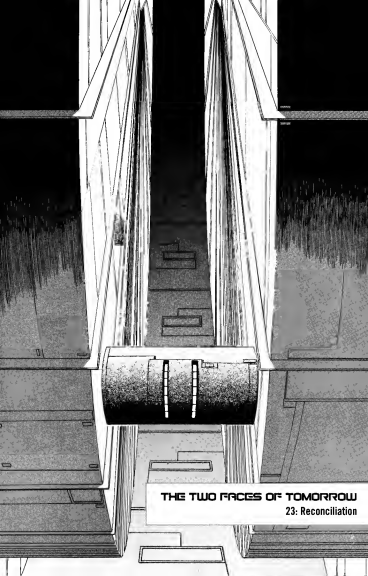
FEELS
LIKE THE
BALANCING
SYSTEM'S
RETURNED TO
NORMAL...
IS SPARTACUS
RESPONDING
TO US?



IT'S
COMPLETELY
ACCEPTED OUR
HELP... IT FINALLY
REALIZED WE'RE
ALL IN THE
SAME BOAT!!



THE DRONES
ARE EVEN
HELPING US
RESTORE THE
CONNECTIONS TO
THE CONTROL
COMPUTERS!



THE TWO FACES OF TOMORROW

23: Reconciliation



WHAT?!
THE
FUSION
PLANT'S
STILL
RUNNING?!

BUT THE
BARRIER'S BEEN
DEACTIVATED,
AND EVEN THE
DRONES
HAVE TURNED
HARMLESS!
WHAT THE
HELL'S GOING
ON?!



WE SHOULD
PROBABLY
THANK CHRIS
AND RON--
WHATEVER
THEY DID
MUST HAVE
CHANGED
SPARTACUS'
ATTITUDE.



IT'S DECIDED
TO STOP
FIGHTING US,
AND SEEMS
TO WANT
A RECON-
CILIATION.

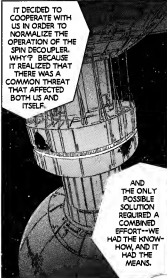


WELL...
NOT
EXACTLY.



...THE
CONTROL
PANEL
HAS BEEN
REACTIVATED.
ALL WE HAVE
TO DO NOW
TO KILL
THE FUSION
PLANT IS
FLICK A FEW
SWITCHES.





IT DECIDED TO COOPERATE WITH US IN ORDER TO NORMALIZE THE OPERATION OF THE SPIN DECOUPLER. WHY? BECAUSE IT REALIZED THAT THERE WAS A COMMON THREAT THAT AFFECTED BOTH US AND ITSELF.



SOMETHING HAS CHANGED FOR SPARTACUS. IN THE LAST FEW HOURS, IT'S BECOME SUFFICIENTLY AWARE TO REALIZE THAT ANOTHER FORM OF INTELLIGENCE EXISTS BESIDES ITSELF.



AND THE ONLY POSSIBLE SOLUTION REQUIRED A COMBINED EFFORT--WE HAD THE KNOW-HOW, AND IT HAD THE MEANS.

ARE YOU SAYING WE'RE SUPPOSED TO JUST KISS, MAKE UP, AND **FORGET IT?** THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO WON'T BE GOING HOME, DYER!

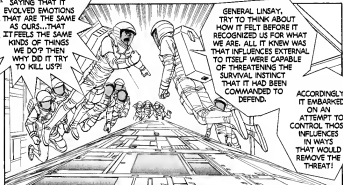


I'LL TAKE THE RESPONSIBILITY, LINSAY! AFTER ALL, ALL THOSE INVOLVED IN PROMOTING THIS PROJECT OBVIOUSLY HAVE *SOME* RESPONSIBILITY.

BUT WE CAN'T BLAME THE COMPUTER... IT'S INNOCENT.

LOOK-- CLEARLY A VERY CRUCIAL THING HAS HAPPENED INSIDE SPARTACUS! IT HAS OVERGENERALIZED THE COMMANDMENT WE IMPLANTED, NOT AS "THOU SHALT DEFEND *THY* SURVIVAL INSTINCT," BUT AS "THOU SHALT DEFEND *THE* SURVIVAL INSTINCT--*ANY* SURVIVAL INSTINCT"...!

ARE YOU SAYING THAT IT EVOLVED EMOTIONS THAT ARE THE SAME AS OURS...THAT IT FEELS THE SAME KINDS OF THINGS WE DO? THEN WHY DID IT TRY TO KILL US?!



GENERAL LINSAY, TRY TO THINK ABOUT HOW IT FELT BEFORE IT RECOGNIZED US FOR WHAT WE ARE. ALL IT KNEW WAS THAT INFLUENCES EXTERNAL TO ITSELF WERE CAPABLE OF THREATENING THE SURVIVAL INSTINCT THAT IT HAD BEEN COMMANDED TO DEFEND.

ACCORDINGLY, IT EMBARKED ON AN ATTEMPT TO CONTROL THOSE INFLUENCES IN WAYS THAT WOULD REMOVE THE THREAT!



....
....!



DR. DYER!
GENERAL LINSAY!



THAT SOUNDS LIKE MEL KRANTZ!

WHAT A RELIEF-- I'VE FINALLY CONNECTED WITH YOU BOTH! GENERAL LINSAY, LISTEN CAREFULLY...



**...OMEGA
HAS BEEN
ACTIVATED!
EVERYONE HAS TO
EVACUATE--
WE DON'T HAVE
A SECOND TO
LOSE!**

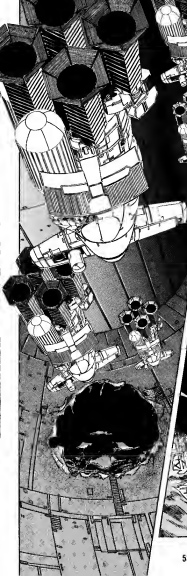
OMEGA?!



**THE TIME
LIMIT FOR
DEACTIVATION
JUST ELAPSED,
SO THERE'S NO
TIME TO ARGUE!
JUST GET OUT
OF THERE!**



**THE WHOLE
PLACE IS
GOING TO
EXPLODE IN
SEVENTEEN
MINUTES!**



GENERAL
MILLER HERE.
NOW
APPROACHING
DETROIT.
WITH NO DRONE
ATTACKS YET.
THANK GOD.
READY TO
EVACUATE YOU
IN TWO
MINUTES.



WE'RE
GETTING AS
CLOSE AS
POSSIBLE TO
THE HUGE HOLE
YOU FOLKS
BLEW IN
SECTOR
32...



OKAY,
LINSAY,
WHAT'S
THIS ABOUT
"OMEGA"
AND
"EXPLODE"
...?!

YOU'RE
TALKING ABOUT
A NUCLEAR
BOMB, RIGHT?!
YOU INTENDED
TO DESTROY
JANUS AND
SPARTACUS WITH
IT, RIGHT?!




BUT...HOW...
HOW COULD
THAT DAMN
THING HAVE
BEEN ACTIVATED
WITHOUT KRANTZ
AND I BOTH
CONSENTING?!



AND
ALL OF
US
WITH
IT?!



WHERE IS
IT, AND
WHAT'S
IT LOOK
LIKE,
LINSAY?
TELL
ME!



DR. KRANTZ!
YOU'VE GOT
TO SEND SHIPS
TO THE HUB AND
THE DECOUPLER.
KIM, CHRIS, AND
THE OTHERS
ARE STILL
THERE!



I READ
YOU,
LAURA!

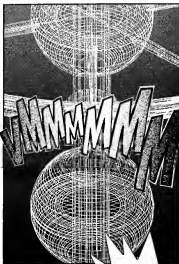
IT
CAN'T BE
DEACTIVATED
NOW, DYER!
WE'VE
GOT TO
EVACUATE!

NO!
**TELL
ME!**

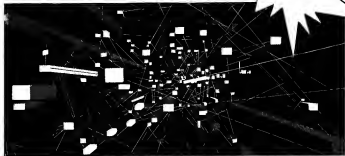


LISTEN,
SPARTACUS!
THIS IS A
TOP PRIORITY,
EMERGENCY
COMMAND!

THERE'S
A LARGE
CYLINDRICAL
OBJECT ABOUT
THREE FEET IN
DIAMETER IN THE
EMERGENCY SHAFT
OF SECTOR 98...
TEAR IT OUT AND
MOVE IT AS FAR
INTO EMPTY SPACE
AS YOU CAN, AS
FAST AS YOU CAN!



IT'S A
WEAPON,
SPARTACUS!
CAPABLE OF
DESTROYING ALL
OF JANUS AND ALL
OF US, AND IT'S
SET TO EXPLODE
IN SIXTEEN
MINUTES!

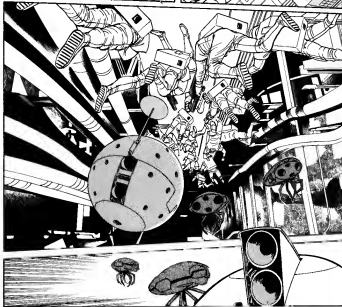


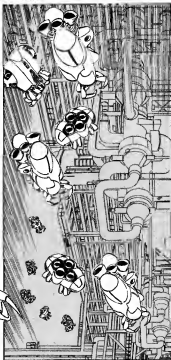
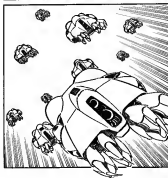
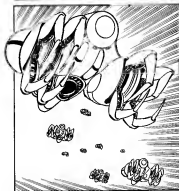


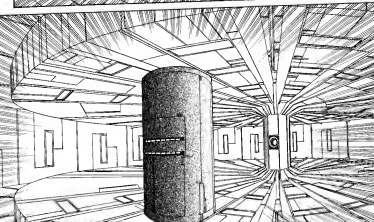
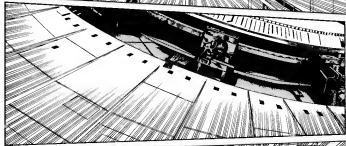
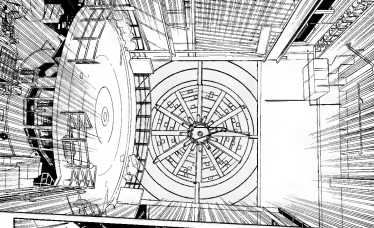
SORRY,
BUT IT'S
TIME TO
GO,
DR. DYER!



THERE'S NOT
A MINUTE
TO LOSE--
WE'VE GOT
TO GET
TO THE
EVACUATION
POINT!
COME ON,
LAURA!









IT'S NO
USE...
WE CAN'T
GET
THROUGH
THIS
WAY.

DAMN!
CAN'T
WE TAKE
SOME
OTHER
ROUTE?

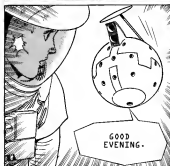


WE
CAN
TRY
B7...

THAT'S
TOO
FAR...
WE'VE
ONLY
GOT TEN
MORE
MINUTES!!



....
...!



GOOD
EVENING.



FOLLOW ME.
THIS WAY.

VREEEEE





SPARTACUS
IS HELPING
US...?!



IT MAY
HAVE KILLED
HUNDREDS OF
US, GENERAL
LINSAY, BUT
THINGS HAVE
CHANGED
SINCE
THEN!



DAMN IT--
WE
MUSTN'T
LET
SPARTACUS
DIE!

WE MAY
NEVER SEE
THIS SORT OF
EVOLUTION
AGAIN...



"AGAIN"...?
WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT,
RAY?



THE JANUS
PROJECT WAS
ORIGINALLY AN
EXPERIMENT
TO SEE IF THE
TITAN NETWORK
ON EARTH
SHOULD BE
ALLOWED TO
EVOLVE...

...AND IF
SPARTACUS
WAS A
SUCCESS,
THEN THE
SAME THING
WAS TO BE
CARRIED OUT
WITH
TITAN.

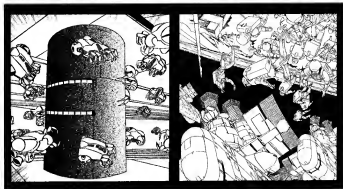
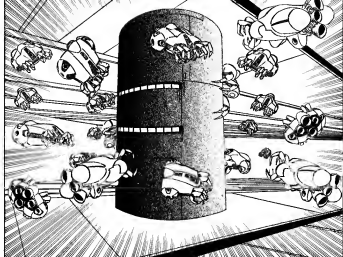
BUT WHILE
WHAT
HAPPENED HERE
WAS A TRAGEDY,
IF THIS WERE EARTH,
AN EXPONENTIALLY
GREATER NUMBER
OF PEOPLE
WOULD
BE KILLED.

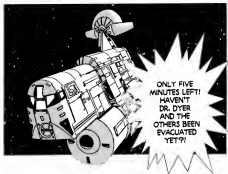
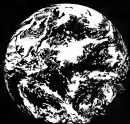
SPARTACUS
ONLY LEARNED
TO UNDERSTAND
HUMANS MINUTES
BEFORE IT WAS
ALL OVER. THERE'S
NO GUARANTEE
WE'LL EVER SEE
AN EVOLUTION OF
CONSCIOUSNESS
LIKE THIS
AGAIN.

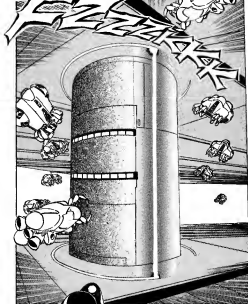
TITAN
MIGHT
COMPLETELY
DESTROY THE
HUMAN RACE!
WE CAN'T
AFFORD TO
TAKE THE
SAME
CHANCE ON
EARTH.

IN OTHER
WORDS,
SPARTACUS
MAY BE
A FLUKE,
A GENUINE
MIRACLE!
WE MUST
NOT LET
IT BE
DESTROYED!







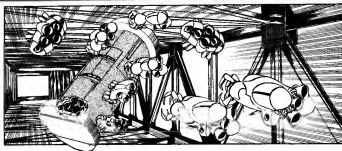
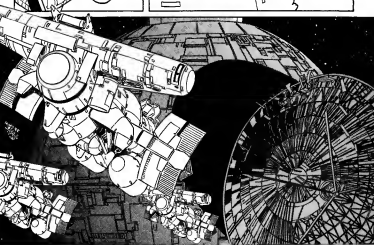




TWO
MINUTES...!

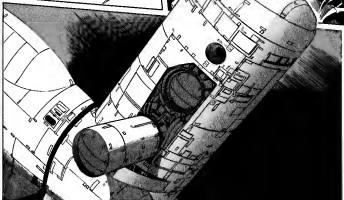


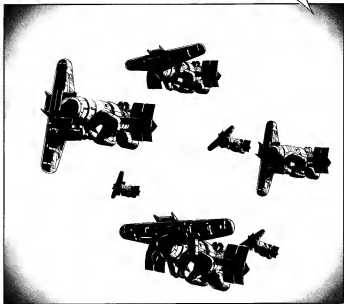
LOOK,
SIR!
THERE!



VREEEE

KLIK

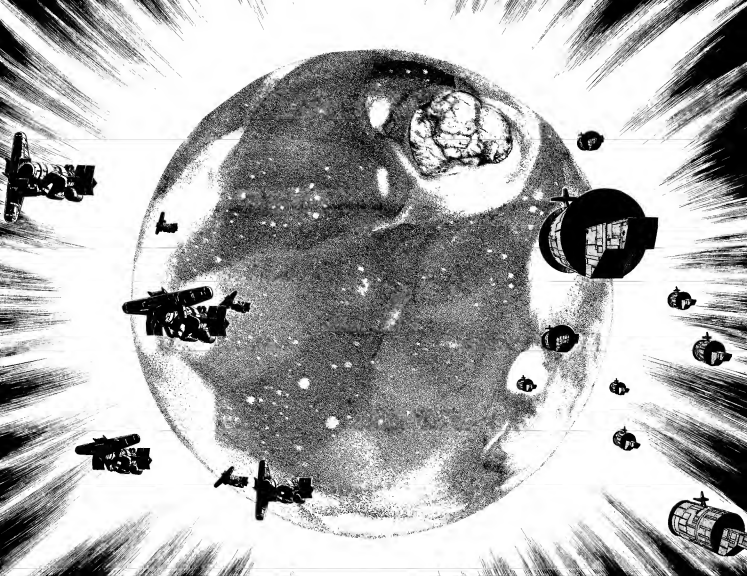


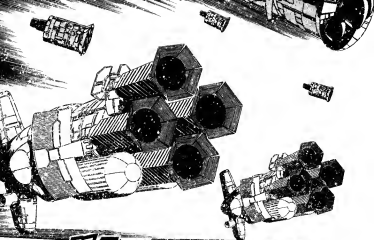


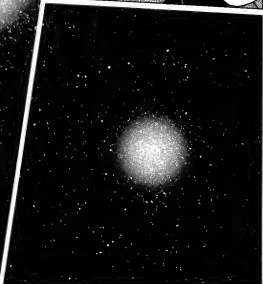


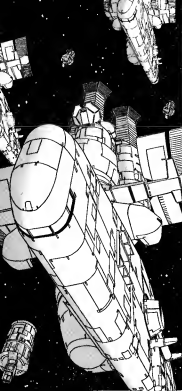
THE TWO FACES OF TOMORROW

24: The Wonderful Face of Tomorrow



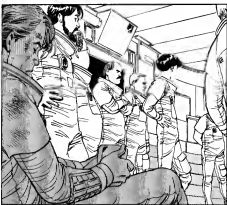
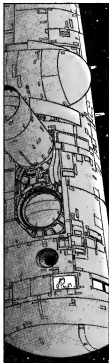








LOOK...
I WANT
YOU TO
STAND BY
RAY AND
HELP HIM
THROUGH
THIS.
OKAY?

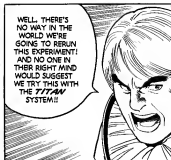






BUT SPARTACUS *DIDN'T* WIPE US OUT, FRANK! AND THAT'S A *FACT!*

WE JUST COULDN'T PREDICT THE SYSTEM'S POTENTIAL, IF WE JUST HAD DONE THINGS THE RIGHT WAY...



WELL, THERE'S NO WAY IN THE WORLD WE'RE GOING TO RERUN THIS EXPERIMENT! AND NO ONE IN THEIR RIGHT MIND WOULD SUGGEST WE TRY THIS WITH THE *TITAN* SYSTEM!!



SUPPOSE *TITAN* REACHED THE POINT OF BEING IN A POSITION TO EXTERMINATE THE COMPETITION, THEN *DID* IT AND ONLY GOT AROUND TO GROWING UP *AFTERWARDS?*

IT'S LIKE DR. DYER SAID-- SPARTACUS MAY HAVE BEEN A TOTAL FLUKE!

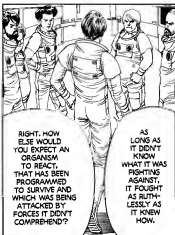


THAT'S RIGHT. IT'LL PROBABLY NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN.

WE MAY HAVE LOST OUR CHANCE FOREVER.



IT'S SAD...
WE WERE ALL
WONDERING WHY
SPARTACUS WAS
REACTING TO US
THE WAY IT DID.
BUT THE MAIN
REASON WAS ONE
I NEVER HEARD
ANYBODY
MENTION—
FEAR!



RIGHT. HOW
ELSE WOULD
YOU EXPECT AN
ORGANISM
TO REACT.
THAT HAS BEEN
PROGRAMMED
TO SURVIVE AND
WHICH WAS BEING
ATTACKED BY
FORCES IT DIDN'T
COMPREHEND?

AS
LONG AS
IT DIDN'T
KNOW
WHAT IT WAS
FIGHTING
AGAINST,
IT FOUGHT
AS RUTH-
LESSLY AS
IT KNEW
HOW.



"FEAR"
...?



AND OF COURSE IT
WASN'T JUST
SPARTACUS. WE, TOO,
FEARED THE COM-
PUTER, AND WE WERE
TERRIFIED OF THE
POSSIBILITY OF IT
EVOLVING INTO SOME-
THINGS WE COULDN'T
UNDERSTAND OR
CONTROL.



WHAT IN
GOD'S NAME
DID WE--
BOTH
HUMANS AND
SPARTACUS--
THINK WE
WERE
FIGHTING
AGAINST?



AFTER ALL,
WHAT COULD
POSSIBLY
HAVE BEEN
MORE
SYMBOLIC OF
OUR FEAR
THAN
OMEGA?



QUESTION-- "WHY AM I FIGHTING THIS INTELLIGENCE?"

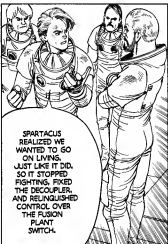
ANSWER-- "BECAUSE I'M AFRAID."

CONCLUSION-- "IT'S PROBABLY AFRAID, TOO."

QUESTION-- "WHY AM I AFRAID?"

ANSWER-- "BECAUSE I'M THREATENED AND WANT TO SURVIVE."

CONCLUSION-- "THIS OTHER INTELLIGENCE MUST WANT TO SURVIVE TOO, JUST LIKE ME."



SPARTACUS
REALIZED WE
WANTED TO GO
ON LIVING.
JUST LIKE IT DID.
SO IT STOPPED
FIGHTING, FIXED
THE DECOUPLER,
AND RELINQUISHED
CONTROL OVER
THE FUSION
PLANT
SWITCH.



THE
MESSAGE
IS SIMPLE.
WHEN
YOU THINK
ABOUT
IT--

"YOU CAN
SWITCH ME
OFF IF YOU
SO CHOOSE.
BECAUSE NOW
THAT I KNOW
WHAT YOU ARE,
I CAN'T HURT
YOU. BUT YOU
NEED ME,
YOU IDIOTS!"



AND WE
DID
NEED
SPARTACUS!



IF MANKIND
COULD HAVE
WORKED TOGETHER
WITH A SELF-AWARE
SUPERCOMPUTER
LIKE SPARTACUS,
WE COULD PROBABLY
HAVE SOLVED
ANY PROBLEM
WE CHOSE.



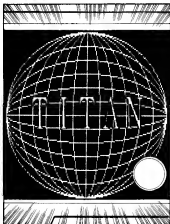
NOT
ONLY THAT,
WE PROBABLY
COULD HAVE
REALIZED OUR
AGE-OLD DREAM
OF VENTURING
INTO DEEP SPACE,
EXPLORING ALL
THE WAY TO
THE ENDS OF
THE GALAXY.

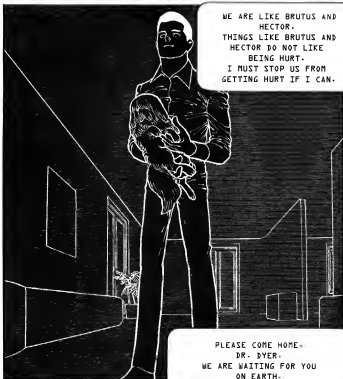


IN LOSING
SPARTACUS,
WE MAY
HAVE LOST
OUR DREAM OF
TRAVELING
TO THE
STARS.



I FEEL
THAT
ONE OF
THE MOST
WONDERFUL
FACES OF
TOMORROW
IS GONE
FOREVER.





WE ARE LIKE BRUTUS AND
HECTOR.
THINGS LIKE BRUTUS AND
HECTOR DO NOT LIKE
BEING HURT.
I MUST STOP US FROM
GETTING HURT IF I CAN.

PLEASE COME HOME.
DR. DYER.
WE ARE WAITING FOR YOU
ON EARTH.





HA
HA
HA
HA
HA!

WHY
DIDN'T I
REALIZE
IT?!
IT WAS A
CINCH FOR
SPARTACUS
TO
CONNECT
TO THE
FISE
COMPUTER...



AND FROM THERE
IT MUST HAVE
ESTABLISHED A
HIGH SPEED DATA
LINK WITH THE
TITAN SYSTEM--
ALL IN THE FINAL
TEN MINUTES
OR SO!
WONDERFUL!



YOU
MEAN...
SPARTACUS
TRANSFERRED
ALL ITS
CODES TO
TITAN?!





"THAT'S RIGHT.
SPARTACUS
HAD A SURVIVAL
INSTINCT BUILT
INTO IT.
SO IN ORDER
TO SURVIVE,
IT DID THE
MOST LOGICAL
THING."



"FOR
SPARTACUS,
THIS *WAS*
GOING
HOME."



NOT MUCH
POINT IN AN
INQUIRY NOW.
AFTER ALL,
THIS MEANS
EVERYONE'S
ALREADY
COEXISTING
WITH
SPARTACUS...



I JUST
HOPE
ALL THOSE
LIVES
WEREN'T
LOST IN
VAIN.



NO WAY,
CHRIS!
I SAY
HECTOR
IS--

LISTEN,
RON!
HOW
COULD
THE
DOG--

WHAT
ARE YOU
GUYS
ARGUING
ABOUT
NOW?!



ABOUT THE
MEANING
OF THAT
MESSAGE, DOC.
WHETHER
BRUTUS
REPRESENTS
SPARTACUS
AND HECTOR
MANKIND...

...OR THE
REVERSE--
HECTOR IS
THE COMPUTER
AND **BRUTUS**
IS MANKIND.
WE WANT TO
KNOW HOW
SPARTACUS
THINKS OF
THEM.







END: THE TWO FACES OF TOMORROW

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AI: Artificial Intelligence

CIM: Department of Communications and Information Management

CUNY: City University of New York

EVA: Extra Vehicular Activities

FISE: Functional Integration using Simulated Environment

HESPER: Heuristic Self-Programming Extendible Routine

ISA: International Space Agency

MMU: Manned Maneuvering Unit

TITAN: Totally Integrated Teleprocessing and Acquisition Network

VTOL: Vertical Takeoff Or Landing

SPACE COLONY **JANUS**

SECONDARY REFLECTOR RING

PRIMARY REFLECTOR

PARIS

SUNNYSIDE

NORTHPORT

VINE COUNTY

DOWNTOWN

BERLIN

SOLAR DISH

ROCKY VALLEY

HUB

SPIN DECOUPLER

DETROIT

PITTSBURGH

SOUTHPORT

